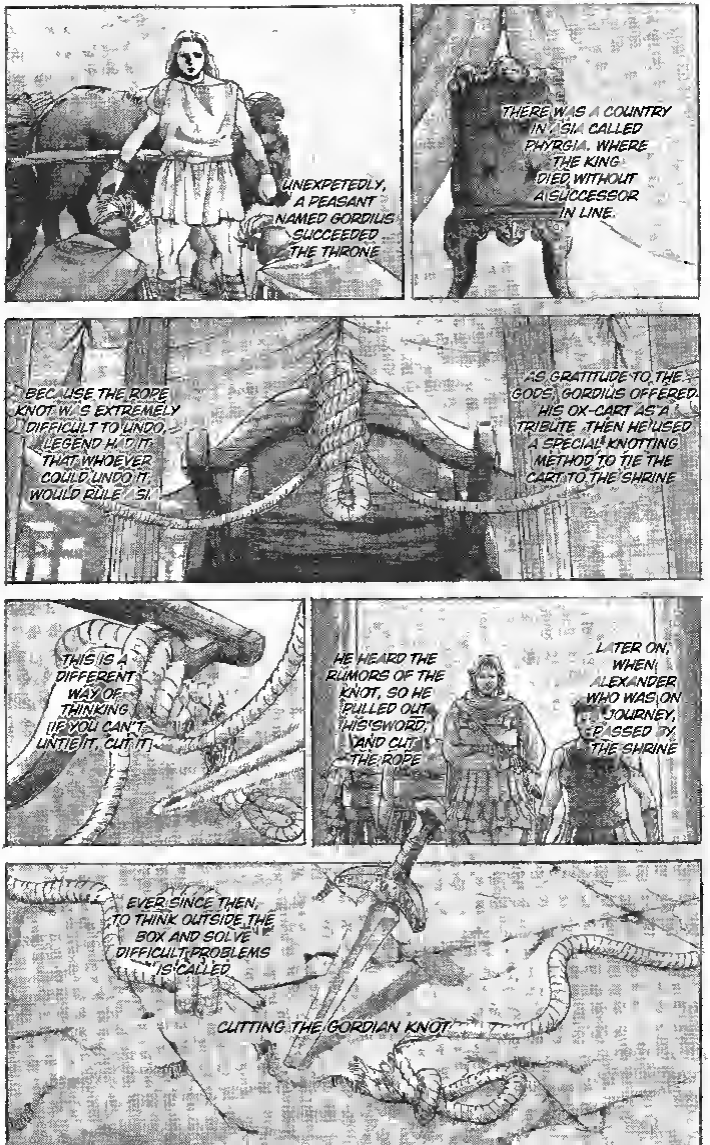

UNEXPETEDLY, A PEASANT NAMED GORDIUS SUCCEEDED THE THRONE
THERE WAS A COUNTRY IN ASIA CALLED PHYRGIA. WHERE THE KING DIED WITHOUT A SUCCESSOR IN LINE.
BECAUSE THE ROPE KNOT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO UNDO, A LEGEND HAD IT THAT WHOEVER COULD UNDO IT, WOULD RULE ASIA.
AS GRATITUDE TO THE GODS, GORDIUS OFFERED HIS OX-CART AS A TRIBUTE. THEN HE USED A SPECIAL KNOTTING METHOD TO TIE THE CART TO THE SHRINE
THIS IS A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING. IF YOU CAN'T UNTIE IT, CUT IT.
HE HEARD THE RUMORS OF THE KNOT, SO HE PULLED OUT HIS SWORD, AND CUT THE ROPE
LATER ON, WHEN ALEXANDER WHO WAS ON JOURNEY, PASSED BY THE SHRINE
EVER SINCE THEN, TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX AND SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IS CALLED
CUTTING THE GORDIAN KNOT.

MISSION 1 :
THE YOUTH WITH 99% ACCURACY

哥帝爾斯的繩結

STANLEY JAPAN
MAIN OFFICE BUILDING
SECTION CHIEF, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
HIE
EVER SINCE YOU JOINED OUR COMPANY, EVERY DAY IN THE REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTMENT IS LIKE SPRING.
HIHIHI, REALLY?
YES NATSUKI, YOU LOOK CUTE TODAY.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PUBERTY
BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOUR BOOBS WERE BIGGER
These aren't mountains, they're cliffs
BUT, YOU DO HAVE A NICE BUTT.
REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTMENT
PART-TIME EMPLOYEE
MORI NATSUKI
(19 YEARS OLD)

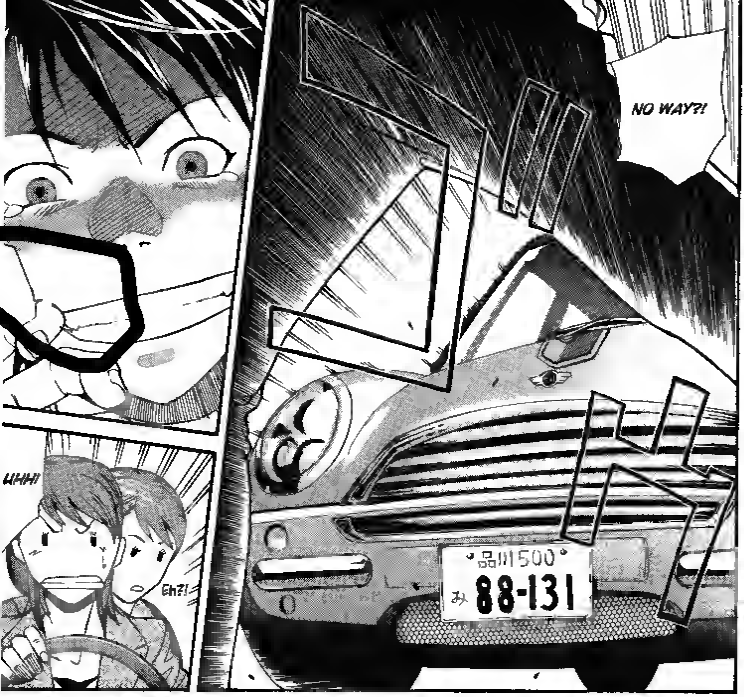
YES. OUT OF QUESTIONS RANGING FROM VERY EASY TO EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. 100 QUESTIONS ARE SELECTED RANDOMLY-
Last Knot
Do You Challenge?
THOSE WHO CONTINUOUSLY ANSWER THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY WILL GET PRIZE MONEY
...BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT, NATSUKI ...
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WEBSITE [THE GORDIAN KNOT]?
haha
OF COURSE. WEBSITES RELATED TO GAMBLING AND CHALLENGES ARE VERY POPULAR NOWADAYS.
I'll kill you next time
I FOUND SOMEONE ...
Name: Manjou Yuki
17 yeors old
Bloadtype AB
Address: Imazato city, Nakae district
Imazata seniar high 2nd year
Results: below average
...A YOUNG MAN WITH 99% ACCURACY

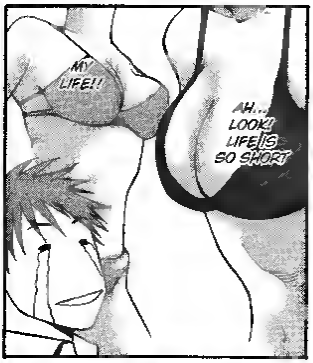
MAN-JOU-KUN!
M-MARIKO-SENSEI ...
I DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE ...
I... I...
EH...? SOMETHING TERRIBLE ...??
MANJOU YUKI
(IMAZATO 2ND YEAR)

WAAAAHHHH!!
EH...
YAH...
SPLIT

AH...
AAAAAHHHHH!!
OH NO ...
.....
A human head...
UH~
BUT YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE STILL BELOW AVERAGE
HMPH, OF COURSE
MANJOU IS A GENIUS WHEN IT COMES TO THESE KINDS OF THINGS.
Y-YOU'RE A PAIN! IF I DID IT SERIOUSLY, EASY EXAMS LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE GREAT!
YOU REALLY DID A GOOD JOB.
The cleaning looks good, the structure looks good too.

Right
Probably an easy win
HEY...
AH, GREAT
let's bet a MOS Burger Store's Onion Potato Rings Meal Set
RIGHT, LET'S BET ON OUR NEXT EXAM SCORE.
N-NO- LET'S NOT
RANKS IN THE TOP 10
REALLY
SO BORING...
AH...
B-BESIDE YOU...
MAN... MAN-JOU~
HUH?
UWAH...
EH...
UU, SHOULD BE NEAR THIS AREA...


NO WAY?!
品川500
み 88-131
UHH!
Eh?!

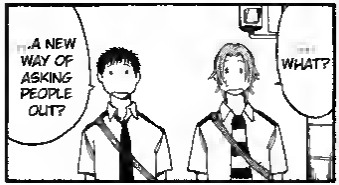

MY LIFE!!
AH... LOOK! LIFE IS SO SHORT

ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?!

SHINING
SPARKLING
ARE YOU MAD?
SORRY, I LOOKED AWAY FOR A WHILE, I ACCIDENTALLY ...
HIHIHI
A-ACCIDENTALLY RAN OVER PEOPLE?!
What Hihini. Aw
ずあ
NOT AT ALL
IT'S MY FAULT. I CROSSED THE ROAD DURING A GREEN LIGHT
That's right
ズキュ
ちょーん
uu~
STARE
W-WHAT IS IT?

BETTER? HURRY, GET IN THE CAR.
COME WITH ME~
AH~ COINCIDENCES LIKE THIS ARE REALLY SCARY
EH? WHAT... COULD YOU BE HITTING ON ME?

EH?
COULD YOU BE MANJOU YUKI-KUN?


...A NEW WAY OF ASKING PEOPLE OUT?
...WHAT?

HOW TROUBLE-SOME...
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO ASK ME OUT...
HEY HEY, WAIT UP

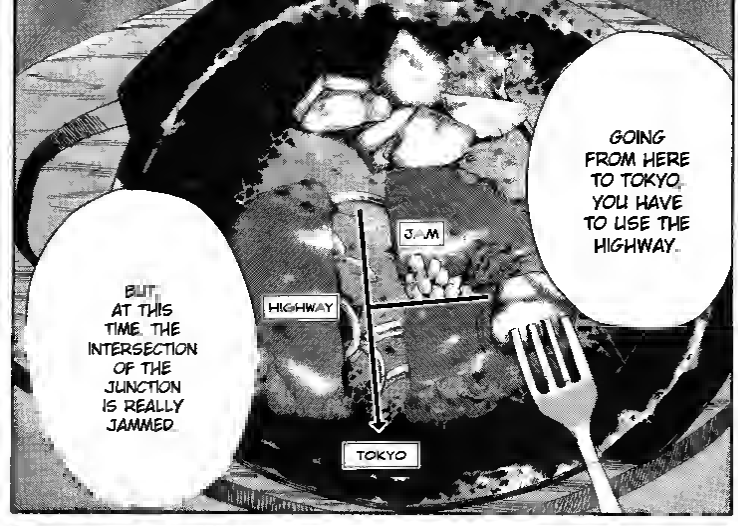
YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THAT.
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE CUTE ONEE-SAN,
SHOCK!?
A
GLP
BUT I ONLY GO OUT WITH WOMEN WITH AT LEAST A D-CUP AND ABOVE
HOW DO I SAY IT, IT'S A KIND OF STRATEGY, YOU KNOW?
ah, I really want to touch it...

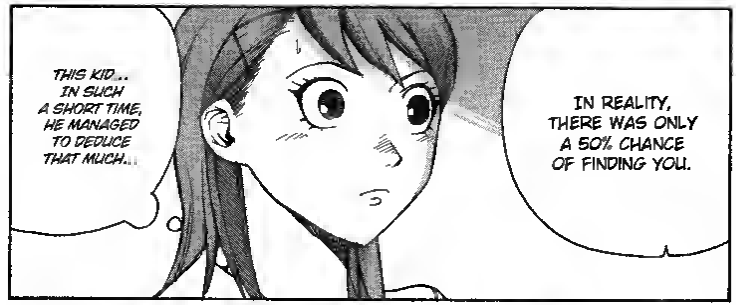
STRATEGY? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'RE SAYING... BIGGER IS BETTER?
WON'T THEY DROOP IN THE FUTURE?!
THEN IT'S TERRIBLE RIGHT?!
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DROOPING,
ISN'T IT GOOD?
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?
SHRUG!
LOOKING DOWN ON ME?
ISN'T IT FINE LIKE THIS...
MY SHOULDERS WOULD HURT LIKE HELL.
TREMBLE
NORMAL ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH?
MY SHOULDERS WON'T HURT LIKE TH. T.
HEY, DON'T YOU AGREE?
YOU THINK SO?
UWAH
SO WHAT IF MY BREASTS ARE SMALL !!!

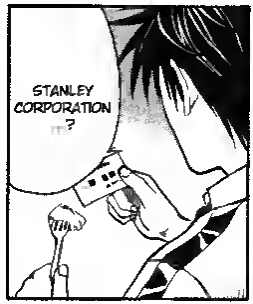
How dare you say something that Matters most to me....
AH... OH NO ...
MAN... MANJOW ~~~?!
!?
SLOWLY
SLOWLY
SHE RAN AWAY ?!

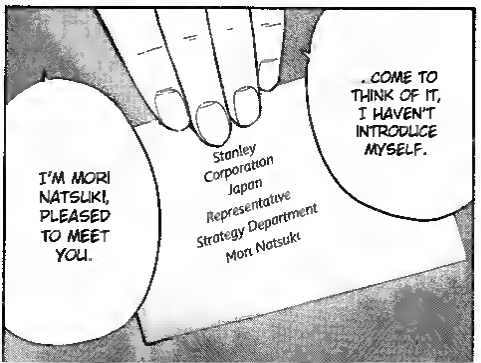
T-THAT KID SHOULD BE FINE...
He w-won't really die
IN MY ANGER, I COULDN'T HELP IT...
IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THIS, YOU'LL NEVER GET A BOY-FRIEND
AHHA...
AHHA-HAHA-HAHA...
!?
he he
HEY

I WILL DO MY BEST TO EAT..! AS COMPENSATION
SKYLAND MASUTO
COME ON, EAT UP.
..BUT YOU REALLY FOUND ME.
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BEING COURTEOUS..?
CHEW
CHEW
LICENSE PLATE?
IT'S YOUR CAR'S LICENSE PLATE.
88-13
AH... ABOUT THAT..
HUH?
GULP


GOING FROM HERE TO TOKYO, YOU HAVE TO USE THE HIGHWAY.
JAM
HIGHWAY
TOKYO
BUT, AT THIS TIME, THE INTERSECTION OF THE JUNCTION IS REALLY JAMMED.


IN REALITY, THERE WAS ONLY A 50% CHANCE OF FINDING YOU.
THIS KID... IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, HE MANAGED TO DEDUCE THAT MUCH...


STANLEY CORPORATION...?


. COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF.
Stanley Corporation
Japan
Representative
Strategy Department
Mori Natsuki
I'M MORI NATSUKI, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

YOU COULD SAY WE'RE LIKE ANTIQUE DEALERS
MY COMPANY SPECIALIZES IN ACCEPTING REQUESTS TO OBTAIN ARTWORK AND ANTIQUES, THEN DELIVER THEM TO OUR CLIENTS
NO, IN FACT, MOST OF THE TIME IT'S IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS.
BUT OUR CLIENTS' REQUEST MAY NOT BE SOMETHING COMMONLY AVAILABLE ON THE OPEN MARKET.
UNREASON-ABLE, DIFFICULT CHAL-LENGES !?
SOMETIMES THEY WILL EVEN GIVE AN EXTREMELY UNREASONABLE, DIFFICULT CHALLENGE TO GET RID OF US DECENTLY.
OF COURSE, ASKING SOMEONE TO GIVE UP SOMETHING THEY WOULDN'T SELL DOESN'T GO SMOOTHLY...

RIGHT, HOW SHOULD I SAY IT ....
SOME COLLECTORS ARE LIKE THAT...
TO THEM, SOLVING CHALLENGES AND GAMBLING, THE FEELING OF ECSTASY
THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO FOUND A REASON TO LIVE IN AN WORLD BASED ON OUTCOMES ...
YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE PEOPLE OF THE OUTCOME WORLD.

SO WE HAVE TO GET SOMEONE TO TAKE ON THESE CHALLENGES FOR US...
BUT, WE CAN'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY.
OK, I ACCEPT.
EH?!
AFTER ALL, I'M FEELING REALLY BORED.

EH?
REALLY
WE'RE SAVED!
HEY, JUST A MINUTE.
IN THIS WORLD, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, THERE'S A PRICE FOR IT.
AH, RIGHT... OF COURSE WE'LL GIVE YOU A SUM OF MONEY
TOO BAD-
UNFORTUNATELY I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY
WHY DON'T
WE MAKE A BET.
BET ...?!
RIGHT. IF YOU WIN, I'LL HELP YOU FOR FREE...
BUT IF I WIN...

YOU HAVE TO DO AS I SAY, OBEY ME ON EVERYTHING.
NEE-SAN YOU'RE NO LONGER A CHILD, YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I MEAN
BY THEN, WE CAN FORGET ABOUT YOUR BOOBS.
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE...!!
don't you look down on adults
Y-YOU BRAT..
angry
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
IF YOU CAN UNDO THAT, THEN IT'S YOUR WIN.
THE DEADLINE IS TOMMOROW NIGHT.
THEN IT'S DECIDED.
EH? NO, NOT YET ...

WHEN DID HE TIE IT?
THAT ...?!
AH!
.....
...CAN'T UNDO.
PACHAK
9 00
WHEN DID HE TIE IT?
9 00
AH- I HATE IT-
?
HM~
HM~
THE STRING IS SHORTER THAN THE ROD, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PULL IT THROUGH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDO. THIS...
SNAP!

THAT'S NOT GOOD, IF YOU DON'T SLEEP WELL
YOUR SKIN WILL TURN ROUGH ...
そ"ぇ"
IYAY-AYA-YA!
HOW- ARE-YOU- NATSUKI ARE YOU PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER?
FU!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO USE THAT HIGH SCHOOLER?
He's a pervert too
ISN'T THERE ANYONE ELSE? THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE WITH 100% ACCURACY
SO THAT'S IT, A BET..
FUU..
SPECIAL IN A WAY.
UU- ...HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS, HE IS...

...JUST A COINCIDENCE
ACTUALLY THAT WEBSITE HAS A RULE.
WHY DO YOU THINK SO?
HE HAS ENTERED 4 ROUNDS OF THE GORDIAN KNOT,
EACH TIME HE LOST AFTER ANSWERING THE 100TH QUESTION WRONG...
PRIZE ¥10,000!
THOSE WHO ANSWERED 100 QUESTIONS CORRECTLY RECEIVE PRIZE MONEY~
BUT THE PARTICIPANT WILL LOSE HIS ELIGIBILITY AS A PARTICIPANT FOREVER.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE....

TO MAINTAIN HIS ELIGIBILITY,
HE DOESN'T TAKE THE PRIZE MONEY.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO HIM, IS NOT THE DESIRE FOR WEALTH ...
IT'S THE DESIRE FOR DIFFICULT CHALLENGES!!
OUR REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTMENT NEEDS THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE-
THOSE WHO FIND PLEASURE IN SOLVING IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGES.

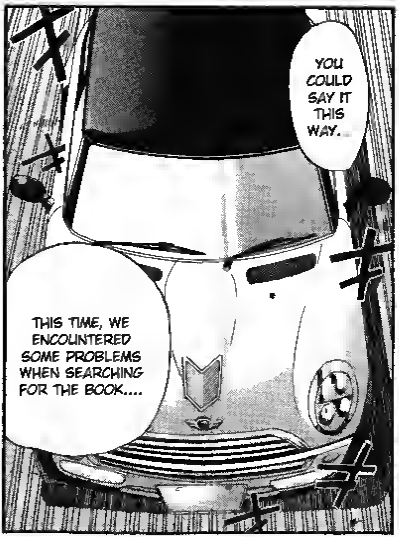
IN THE END, I CAN'T ...
ガシ
BUT, DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF, NATSUKI! YOU'RE JUST A PART-TIMER.
IF I LOSE LIKE THIS ...
ムズ
ムズ
THAT... YEAH...
I WOULD BE REALLY PISSED!!

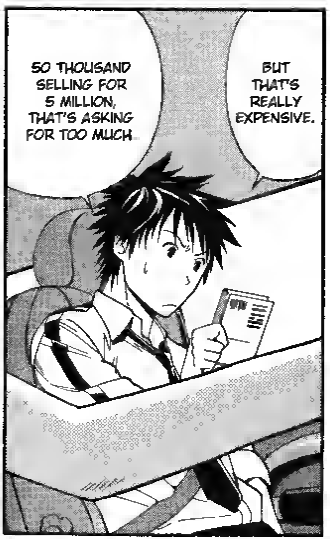
YOU REALLY LIKE BETTING
WANT TO BET TODAY?
LAST LAP!
COME ON!
IT'S TRUE, TANAKA THAT GUY-
EH? REALLY ?
HEY, DON'T SLACK.
AH, GREAT.
THEN LET'S BET WHETHER THE TRAFFIC LIGHT IS RED OR GREEN?
HUH HA!
HMPH, GIVE IT UP~
you perverted brat

AH, SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS THAT, OF COURSE YOU CAN UNDO IT.
N-NOT BAD, THIS WOMAN
O-OF COURSE ...
HMPH WHAT A SHOW-OFF EXPRES-SION.
SO, WHAT'S THE TARGETED ITEM THIS TIME.
AH, ABOUT THAT ...
IT'S A BOOK
A BOOK WORTH 5 MILLION YEN.
HAH ~~?!
WHAT? THAT'S TOO SMALL.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT 5 MILLION IS THE OFFER PRICE, IN FACT IT'S ONLY WORTH 500 THOUSAND YEN.
BUT THAT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.
don't be so rude
OR IS IT COMPLETELY HAND-WRITTEN BY A FAMOUS CALLIGRAPHY MASTER?
WHAT KIND OF BOOK IS IT? A BOOK MADE FROM PURE GOLD?
really confused people
Rich people's thinking
IT'S THIS.
OUR TARGET THIS TIME IS THE FIRST EDITION OF THIS BOOK ....
YES.
THIS IS THE BOOK WHERE THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE AKECHI GOROU MADE HIS DEBUT?
AH, IS THIS IT?

THE FIRST EDITION EDITION HAD 100 COPIES, YODOGAWA GAVE HIS FRIEND #001
YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S THE REAL FIRST EDITION.


YOU COULD SAY IT THIS WAY...
THIS TIME, WE ENCOUNTERED SOME PROBLEMS WHEN SEARCHING FOR THE BOOK....

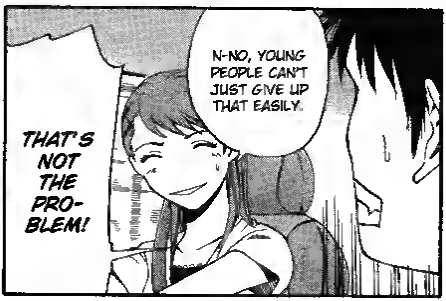

BUT THAT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE.
50 THOUSAND SELLING FOR 5 MILLION, THAT'S ASKING FOR TOO MUCH

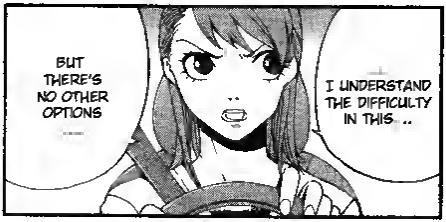
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
FU
PROB-LEMS?
UU, YOU'LL FIND OUT LATER...
YOU HAVE 1 WEEK TO MEMORIZE A BOOK
AH, ABOUT THAT ...
MEMORIZE THE WHOLE BOOK...
... THIS BOOK
MEMORIZE WHAT?
HUH?

HOW CAN I MEMORIZE A WHOLE BOOK IN JUST 1 WEEK?!
NO NO NO NO NO ...
SNACK!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD

HI-YA-YA-YA-YA!!
SUKEEUH

ALSO, I.....


N-NO, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP THAT EASILY.
THAT'S NOT THE PRO-BLEM!


I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTY IN THIS ..
BUT THERE'S NO OTHER OPTIONS ....

HAVE PLACED MY HOPES OF THE OUTCOME
ON YOU.
W-IT....
N-NO...
ぎぎぎぎぎぎぎ
ぎぎぎぎぎぎ...
.....
AH-
NO WAY -!!

IN AN OUTCOME MATCH, I DEFINITELY MUST WIN.
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
HOW CAN I MEMORIZE ONE WHOLE BOOK?!
... HMM, ALTHOUGH, IT LOOKS EXCITING.
ALSO...

1 WEEK LATER-
..... HOW WAS WHAT?
..SO..
HOW WAS IT?
OF COURSE, IN A NORMAL SITUATION, IT CAN'T BE DONE ...
EH?
EEHH??
DID IT GO WELL?
YOU JERK, OF COURSE IT'S ABOUT THE MEMORIZING.
..NO

WHAT
HAHA
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT?
AKIDA
AKI

AKIDA GANG
T-T-THIS PLACE ... ISN'T IT "THAT KIND" OF HOUSE ..?!
HEY... HEY, KEEP YOUR SPIRIT UP ....IF YOU UNDERESTIMATE THIS JOB, YOU'RE DEAD.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE, THERE'RE SOME PROBLEMS ...
THIS ISN'T JUST "SOME"!
THEY WILL DO ANYTHING TO EXTRACT A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR IT ...
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY... WE HAPPENED TO DISCOVER THE LONG-LOST BOOK IN THE AKIDA GANG LOAN SHARK RING....
THIS IS EXTREMELY.... DANGEROUS...

HU, WHAT IS IT?
HAVE YOU MEMORIZED IT?
FU
ABOUT T-THAT ...
...AH NO... IT'S VERY TROUBLESOME, THIS KIND OF SITUATION

E-EXCUSE ME, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS?
THE AIR FEELS HEAVY.
DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY WITNESSES.
QUITE ORDINARY.
ORDINARY...?! YOU'RE JOKING!
IN THIS SITUATION, HOW'S IT POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE AND RECITE THE BOOK?
.....WE'VE COMPLETELY FELL INTO THEIR TRAP ..!!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD!
WHAT'S WRONG?

HEY HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
T-THIS...

UWAH...
SHOCKED
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE HINDERING...
AAHH?!
AH... BOSS, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS TOO MUCH??
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!
YOU MESSING WITH MY ANIKI?!
!?
YOU CAN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL LIKE THIS...
MAN-MANJOU-KUN, LET'S COME BACK ANOTHER DAY.
HAAH?! YOU...

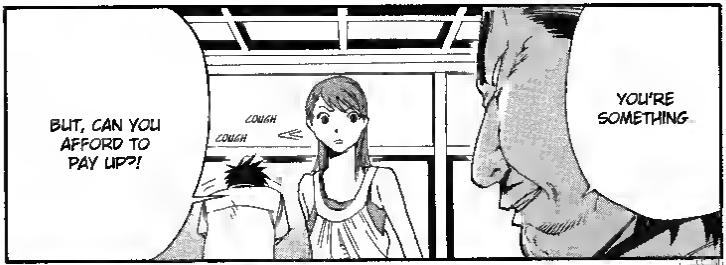
WHAT AN INTERESTING IDEA.
...RIGHT.
I OFFICIALLY ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.
スッ
BUT-
MANJOU-KUN?!

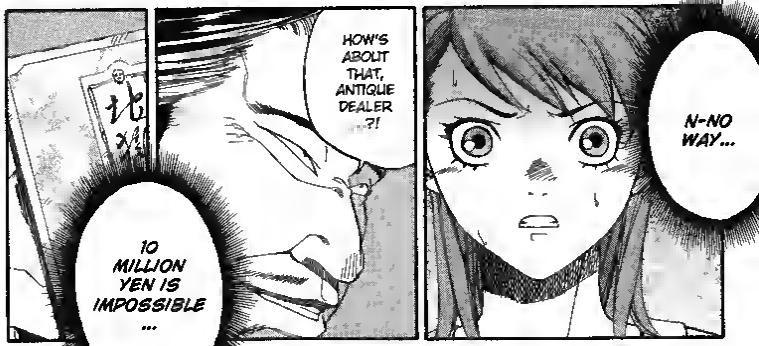
IF I WIN...
I'LL TAKE THIS BOOK FOR FREE!
IF I LOSE ...
WHAT ...?!
I'LL GIVE YOU 10 MILLION YEN!!

FU HA HA HA HA HA !!

C-CAN'T BREATH ...
YOU IDIOT ...!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!

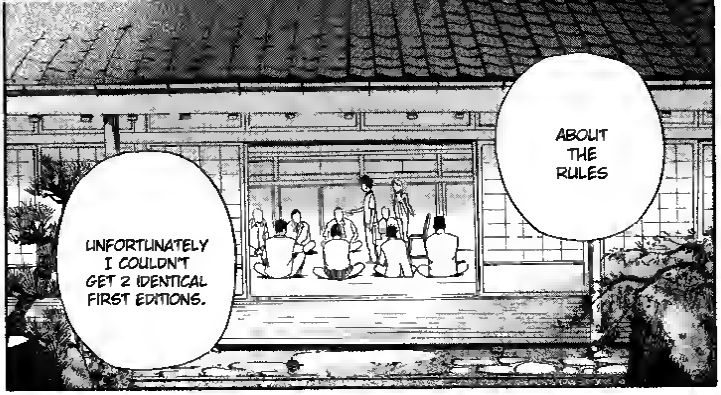
HA...

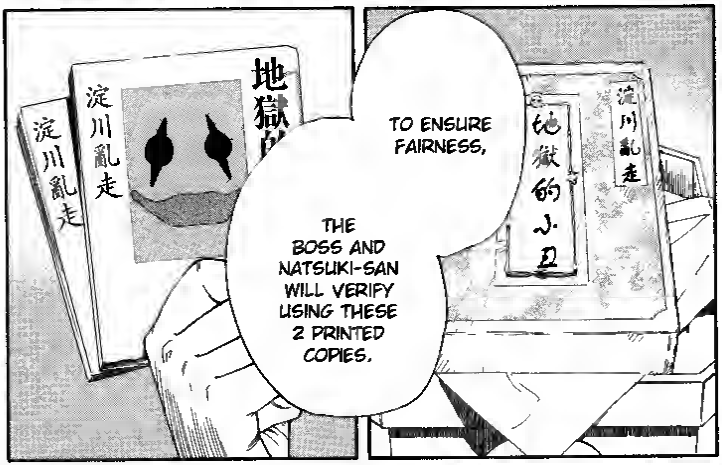

BUT, CAN YOU AFFORD TO PAY UP?!
COUGH
COUGH
YOU'RE SOMETHING


HOW'S ABOUT THAT, ANTIQUE DEALER ...?!
10 MILLION YEN IS IMPOSSIBLE ...
N-NO WAY...

P-PAY... HOW CAN A HIGH SCHOOLER PAY FOR IT..?!
I'LL PAY FOR IT...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT ABOUT IT! I JUST HAVE TO SELL SOME OF MY ORGANS TO SOME SOUTHEAST ASIA AREA TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY ...
BOSS, YOU WOULDN'T MIND RIGHT?
S-SELL ORGANS ...
ISN'T THIS JUST A GAME?!
HOW COULD YOU RISK YOUR LIFE JUST FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS ....

SO THIS WILL GET INTERESTING .....
!?
WHEN AN OUTSIDER TALKS TO US LIKE THIS, HOW CAN WE COWER IN FEAR ...!!
....IT'S TOO LATE...
I CAN'T AGREE WITH YOUR METHODS ...
W-WAIT!


ABOUT THE RULES
UNFORTUNATELY I COULDN'T GET 2 IDENTICAL FIRST EDITIONS.


TO ENSURE FAIRNESS,
THE BOSS AND NATSUKI-SAN WILL VERIFY USING THESE 2 PRINTED COPIES.
淀川亂走
地獄的J.B

MAN-MANJOU -KUN... THINK IT THROUGH CAREFULLY.... THIS IS TOO RISKY...
THIS IS FOR YOU NATSUKI -SAN.
... ALRIGHT

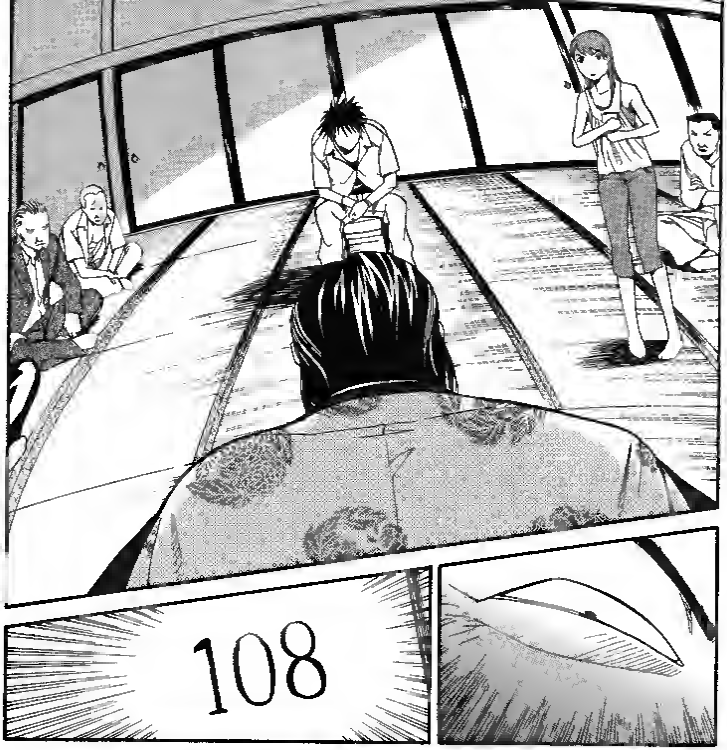
NATSUKI-SAN, WE'VE COME SO FAR, HOW CAN WE JUST GIVE UP...
UGH?!
I-IDIOT, I JUST...
hey!!
WHAT'S THAT?!
...THAT KIND OF CONFIDENCE ...
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'VE PLACED YOUR HOPES ON ME?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, STAY WITH ME TILL THE END.

IF WE START NOW...
RIGHT.
RIGHT, ISN'T IT ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN?
WHAT?!!
...WE'LL NEED 1 WHOLE DAY... UP THROUGH TOMORROW EVENING.
YOU'RE THE ONE REQUESTING US TO RECITE THE WHOLE BOOK.
HMPH
!!
HEY HEY, THIS IS OBVIOUS
IF THERE ARE 700 CHARACTERS ON A PAGE, WITH A TOTAL OF 200 PAGES... I WOULD HAVE TO RECITE 140 THOUSAND WORDS?!

THEN YOU WILL RECITE ANYTHING WRITTEN ON THOSE PAGES
NOW I WILL OPEN A PAGE RANDOMLY,
FLIP
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T WE DO IT THIS WAY.
....A TRAP!!
SO, YOU JUST HAVE TO RECITE 2 PAGES
ACCORDING TO THEIR RULES, HE WOULD HAVE TO RECITE EVERY SINGLE WORD WRITTEN ON EACH PAGE
IF YOU START HALFWAY THROUGH THE BOOK, THE DIFFICULTY INCREASES!
IF YOU COME UPON AN UNFINISHED SENTENCE-

STUPID ...
NO MATTER WHAT, HE'S GOING TOO FAR...!!
!?
THAT'S THE WORST SITUATION-
GRIP
OK
THEN, LET'S BEGIN.

...YOU DECIDE THEN.
MAN... MANJOU-KUN
WHAT EXACTLY IS HE THINKING -?!
THIS IS LIKE FORCING YOURSELF INTO A DEAD END-!!
FLIP



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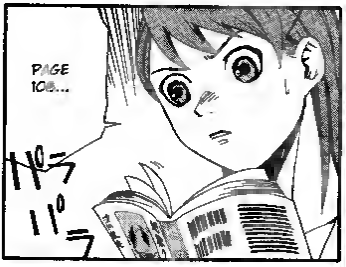
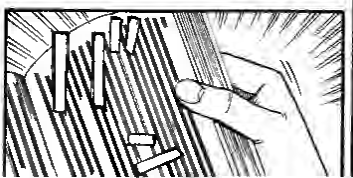
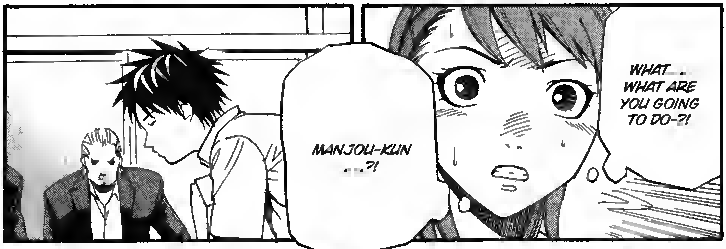




THE WORST SITUATION-!!

!!
YET
108
物音は
事件が


WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO-?!
MANJOU-KUN ...?!

THIS BOOK [THE HELL CLOWN] IS THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE AKECHI GOROU'S DEBUT, IT'S THE AUTHOR YODOGAWA WATAHASHI'S MASTERPIECE SERIES...
... THEN, FIRST LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SUMMARY OF THE STORY
... PAGE 108

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARC IS THE OPENING, WHEN YUUKO'S SISTER, SACHIKO'S MURDERED BODY IS DISCOVERED IN A STONE STATUE.
LATER, YUUKO FELT HER LIFE WAS BEING THREATENED, SO SHE REQUEST HELP FROM DETECTIVE AKECHI-
AKECHI PURSUES THE CLOWN RELENTLESSLY, BUT THE CLOWN ALWAYS NARROWLY ESCAPE.
THEN, THE SECOND VICTIM, AN AMNESIAC LADY WHOSE FACE WAS DEFORMED BY CHEMICALS, WAS DISCOVERED IN THE CLOWN'S SECRET HIDEOUT.

YUUKO PITIED THE LADY AND TOOK HER INTO HER HOME.
THEN THE STORY GETS BETTER...
RIGHT-
ON THE PAGE YOU OPENED, THE FIRST WORD TO APPEAR IS...

[TOO].....
....NO, NOT THAT-
IT'S [YET]...!

.....!?
IT'S [YET] ...!
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT!!
HOW COULD IT BE? IMPOSSIBLE ....
AH, RIGHT...
YOU CHEATED. YOU'RE DEFINITELY CHEATING ....

HMPH...
....HE'S RIGHT.
HOW CAN I CHEAT LIKE THIS?
I WAS WATCHING HIM THE WHOLE TIME, AND I DIDN'T SEE HIM LOOKING AT ANYTHING ELSE...
...BUT, HOW DID HE KNOW IT WAS [YET]...?!
COULD IT REALLY BE THAT HE MEMORIZED ALL THE PAGES?!
IN JUST A WEEK'S TIME, IS THAT POSSIBLE -?!

MANJOU-KUN...
GULP
THEN, I'M CONTINUING
I CAN TRUST YOU-!!
UU...
[YUUKO HEARD A SOUND FROM THE NEXT ROOM-]
[-BECAUSE UNPLEASANT EVENTS HAD BEEN HAPPENING FREQUENTLY, A HYSTERICAL YUUKO THINKS THAT IT'S NOT A HALLUCINATION, INSTEAD IT'S THE PRELUDE OF SOMETHING BAD-]
C-CORRECT!!
UUOOO...

T-THAT'S GREAT....
[-BUT. YUUKO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE POOR LADY WOULD WANT TO ATTACK HER-]
HOW COULD IT BE...
HOW COULD IT BE!!
HOW COULD IT BE...
[-NO, THAT'S NOT IT. THIS LADY IS THE SERIAL KILLER KNOWN AS THE HELL CLOWN-]
S-STILL 10 ROW'S... 9 ROW'S....
[-IT'S YUUKO'S SISTER, SACHIKO-]

1 ROW LEFT .....!!
[-IN OTHER WORDS, SHE HID ANOTHER BODY IN THE STONE STATUE THEN SHE TOOK OFF HER CLOWN COSTUME IN THE ROOF MEZZANINE, DEFORMED HER OWN FACE. THIS IS A MADMAN'S .....
.....
.....WISDOM.]
DRIP
CLIZ
NO WAY... REALLY...
....IT'S DONE

HE RECITED IT COMPLETELY-!!

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, TO COMPLETELY RECITE EVERY SINGLE WORD WITHOUT FORGETTING ANYTHING-
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?!
I-I DON'T KNOW.
DON'T YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE US?!
HEY, KID, SAY SOME-THING!!

WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOLER IS HE-!!
HMMM

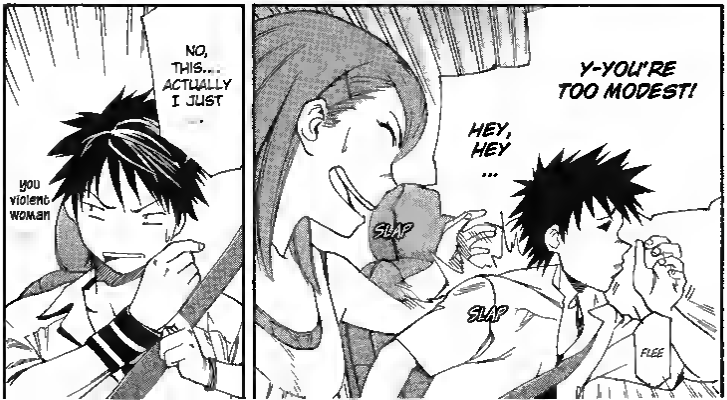
JUST GO
THIS OUTCOME ..
HAH...?!
GRIND
...IS YOUR WIN.
HMPH

NO, NOT AT ALL,

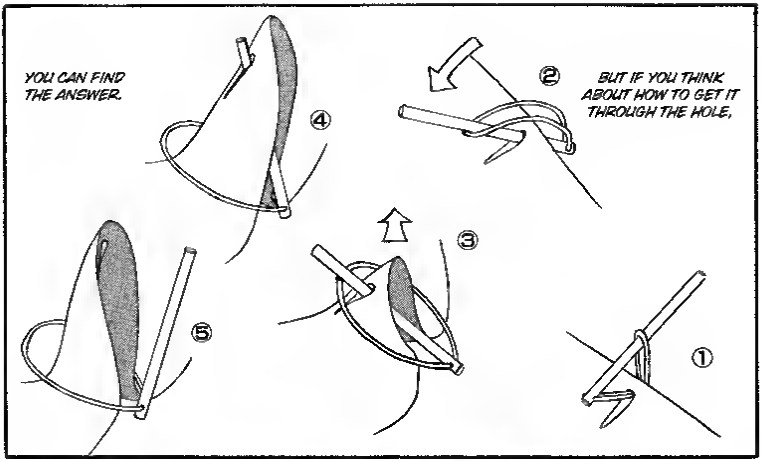
I THINK I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT OF YOU.
TO COMPLETELY MEMORIZE A WHOLE BOOK, YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET IN THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORD.

IS THAT SO..
AFTER ALL I ONLY REMEMBERED THE WORD [YET]

HUH...?!
.....


NO, THIS... ACTUALLY I JUST
you violent woman
Y-YOU'RE TOO MODEST!
HEY, HEY ...
SLAP
SLAP
FLEE

I JUST READ OFF THIS THING.
Perfect
PULL
AH...THAT MOMENT?!
.....
...NO WAY?!
カニー
TO UNRAVEL THIS RIDDLE, JUST THINKING OF HOW TO PULL THE LONGER ROD THROUGH THE SHORTER STRING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
STRAIGHTEN
ACTUALLY, THE TRICK IS THE SAME AS THIS.


YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWER.
④
②
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT HOW TO GET IT THROUGH THE HOLE,
③
⑤
①

IT'S HOW TO WIN.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T HOW TO MEMORIZE THE BOOK,

THE ANSWER IS RIGHT HERE.

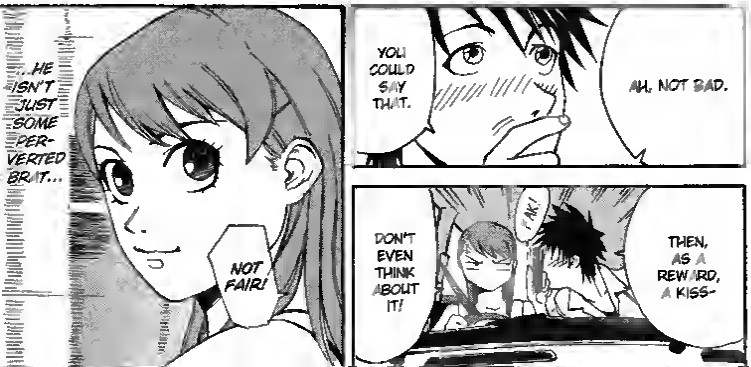
BUT HE DID RANDOMLY OPEN A PAGE. HOW DID YOU KNOW WHICH PAGE HE WOULD OPEN?
UH?!
IT STILL FEELS STRANGE ...

...ISN'T THIS THE COPY FROM BACK THEN...
99
ULP?!
100
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS FROM...
THIS... ALL THE PAGES ARE THE SAME...?!
WELL, ACTUALLY ...ABOUT THAT...
KE

SO...
SORRY....
C-COULD IT BE YOU HAD IT PHOTO-COPIED? 1 BOOK COSTS 25,000 YEN?!
A RECEIPT ?!
PAYING 50 THOUSAND TO GET 500 THOUSAND, THAT'S CONSIDERED CHEAP, RIGHT?!
S-SORRY.. BUT SINCE WE WON, ISN'T IT ALRIGHT?
UIIIIIII
A-ARE YOU ANGRY?!
AH... JUST THINKING OF IT IS SCARY...
If he had opened the other pages, we would have been dead
N-NO AH..
I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY FOUND OUT

EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN
ISN'T THAT SO?
...BUT, YOU DID GREAT
UU?
W-WHAT ABOUT IT...

TO THE OPPONENT, IT'S LIKE HAVING AN ADVANTAGE, BUT IN FACT THEY WERE OUTSMARTED.
FIRST DECEIVE THE OPPONENT INTO THINKING THAT YOU CAN RECITE THE WHOLE BOOK, THEN LURE HIM TO PROPOSE RECITING ONLY 2 PAGES.


...HE ISN'T JUST SOME PERVERTED BRAT...
NOT FAIR!
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
AH. NOT BAD.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
EK!
THEN, AS A REWARD, A KISS-

THAT PERFECTION AND ARROGANCE-
HE'S A CITIZEN OF THE OUTCOME WORLD.... NO; HE'S A PROFESSIONAL!

T-THAT'S FOR BUILDING STAMINA, FOR OUR NIGHT TOGETHER ...
THIS WORLD-
IDIOT..! IT'S FOR OUR NEXT OUTCOME MATCH!
THEN, TO CELEBRATE OUR FIRST VICTORY, LET'S HAVE UNAGI.
I know a very good store
WHAT?!
AND IN THAT WORLD THERE IS ONLY GLORY AND DESTRUCTION-
THERE EXISTS A WORLD FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO FIND PLEASURE IN CHALLENGES ND GAMBLING-
HOWEVER, WHAT THIS KID HAS IS-
地獄小丑
淀川亂走
HEHE, I WANT TO EAT MORE OFTEN.

THE GORDIAN KNOT

ENDLESS ABYSS

#E-A@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

HTTP://ENDLESSABYSS.HOST56.COM/

TRANSLATOR LINSHAOLEE
EDITOR KYUUBI654, AMEINOS
PROOFREADER FLESHCUT
QC'ER DASHED, BEARKING

THIS IS HOW CLOSE WE WANT YOU TO BE WITH US!!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE THAT KNOW JAPANESE OR CHINESE.
CAN CLEAN MANGA FOR US CAN TYPESET OR EVEN PROVIDE US RAWS. FOR MORE DETAILS VIEW OUR FORUM AND APPLY IF YOU WANNA MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE MANGA COMMUNITY.
FOR RAW PROVIDERS PM FLESHCUT
A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUIT PAGE

THE GORDIAN KNOT

MISSION 2 :
HOLD OUT

BEEP BEEP
AH, THAT LOOKS CUTE.
NOT BAD HUH
DON'T DO THAT
THERE IS NO SHARED VICTORY BETWEEN US ..
ONLY THE WINNER CAN GET A GLIMPSE OF TRUE PARADISE IN THIS WORLD ..

Dead or Alive—
GULP
FLIP YOUR CARDS...!
2 PAIR...
3 OF A KIND!!
AAAAA
UWA
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAN-JOU?
HN HN HN HN
FOUR ACES!!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, LOSERS
HA HA HA
HOW'D YOU GET FOUR OF A KIND?!
PLUG
DROP

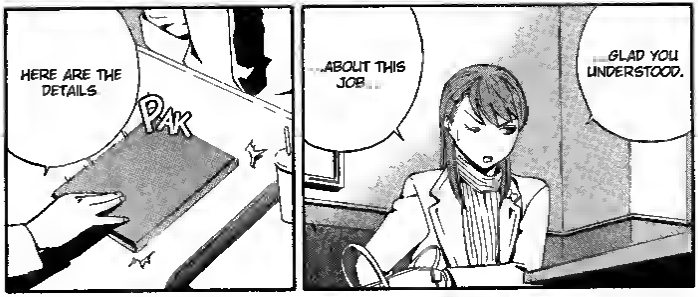
K
A
A
Q
A
A
...YAH!?
AH?
MANJOU, YOU DROPPED SOMETHING...
IDIOTS, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR FALLING FOR IT!
MANJOU----- YOU CHEATED AGAIN!!
I.. AH...
MANJOU, YOU ASSHOLE!
RIGHT, WOMEN'S BODY, WOMEN'S BODY...

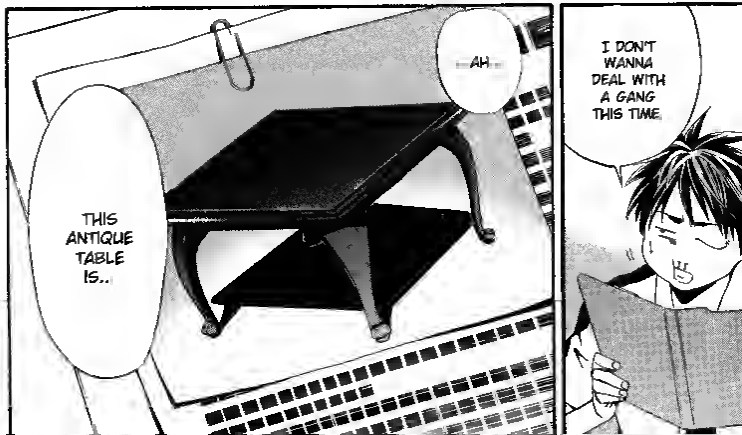
HAAH~~~
THIS FEELS GOOD
HI
I'M MORI NATSUKI
I WORK PART-TIME AT THE STANLEY CORPORATION, A COMPANY THAT DEALS IN ANTIQUES
THAT'S RIGHT, MY JOB REQUIRES ME TO OBTAIN MY CLIENT'S DESIRED ITEMS AND HAND IT TO THEM
THE DEPARTMENT I BELONG TO HAS TO INITIATE A DIRECT DEAL WITH THE OWNER OF THE ITEM, THEN WE NEED TO OBTAIN THE ITEM FOR OUR CLIENT

TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THESE PEOPLE, THE PERSON I RECRUITED IS...
BUT SOME OF THE OWNERS DELIBERATELY GIVE US UNREASONABLY DIFFICULT CHALLENGES, AND REFUSE TO DEAL WITH US.
A YOUNG MAN WITH AN ASTOUNDING 99% ACCURACY ON [THE GORDIAN KNOT] A WEBSITE WITH HIGHLY DIFFICULTY CHALLENGES
EH?
THAT'S THIS KID, MANJOU YUKI-KUN

WE'RE GOING BACK
AFTER YOU'RE DONE, TELL US EVERYTHING
WHEN DID YOU GET A GIRL-FRIEND?
HEY, MANJOU.
EH!? NO, IT'S NOT...
HI!
I'M NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN SMALL BOOBS...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NATSUKI ...
REALLY... THEY'VE GOT IT WRONG...
HYAH
SAN...

SORRY...
I WON'T MENTION YOU H/VE...
SM/LL BOOBS AGAIN.
CD


HERE ARE THE DETAILS
P/K
...ABOUT THIS JOB...
...GLAD YOU UNDERSTOOD.

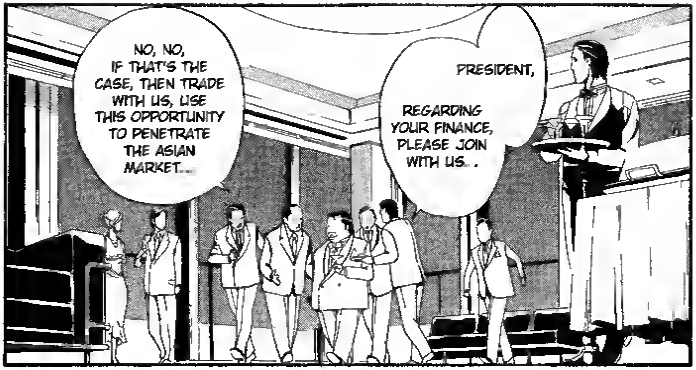

...AH...
THIS ANTIQUE TABLE IS..
I DON'T WANNA DEAL WITH A GANG THIS TIME.

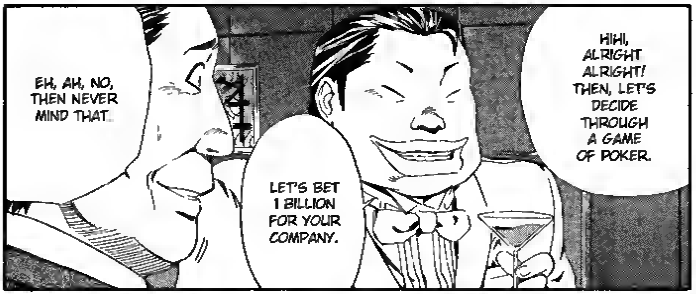
1 WEEK EARLIER
THAT ANTIQUE TABLE IS HIGHLY VALUED BY MY GRANDFATHER.
AH, IT'S SO TROUBLESOME ...BECAUSE MY WIFE, WHO'S OVERLOOKING OUR FINANCES,
WHILE I WAS IN COURT, SHE ACCIDENTALLY PUT IT ON THE AUCTION LIST...
CLIENT: KANAZONO TAKESHI JOB. LAWYER
THE BUYER IS TAKAMATSU CORPORATION'S NEW PRESIDENT.
I TOLD HIM THAT I'M WILLING TO PAY HIM DOUBLE THE AUCTION PRICE TO BUY BACK THE ITEM, BUT-
....NO.

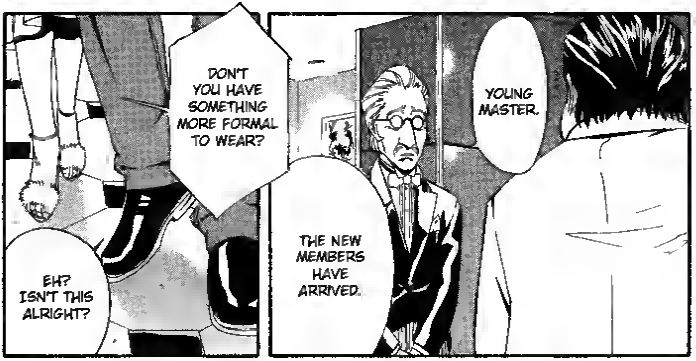
MY INTEREST IS PLAYING POKER EVERY WEEKEND, I PLAY POKER WITH MY BUSINESS PARTNERS.
IF YOU WANT THIS TABLE, THEN BEAT ME IN POKER...
BUT, I'M STRONG.
BECAUSE THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE IS WITH ME!!

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE RULES OF POKER.
BECAUSE OUR CLIENT IS A COMPLETE AMATEUR IN CARD GAMES AND GAMBLING,
HUH
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN JUST BEATING HIM IN POKER IS ENOUGH?
IF OUR CLIENT WERE ABLE TO WIN, HE WOULDN'T REQUEST OUR HELP.
...EH?
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE
THIS TABLE IS..
...SO CAN YOU WIN?
I HEARD THAT HE WAS BORN WITH THE LUCK OF THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE.
ALSO, THE TAKAMATSU CORPORATION PRESIDENT SPECIALIZES IN POKER AND HAS NEVER LOST A GAME.
HMMM...
...NATSUKI-SAN YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK LIKE THAT...

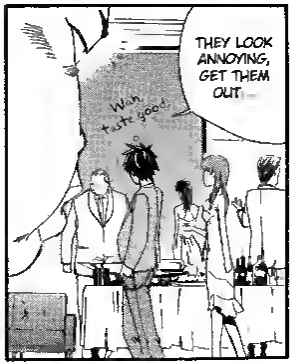
IT SHOULD BE (WE CAN ONLY WIN), RIGHT?


NO, NO, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN TRADE WITH US, USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PENETRATE THE ASIAN MARKET...
PRESIDENT, REGARDING YOUR FINANCE, PLEASE JOIN WITH US. .


EH, AH, NO, THEN NEVER MIND THAT.
LET'S BET 1 BILLION FOR YOUR COMPANY.
HIHI, ALRIGHT ALRIGHT! THEN, LET'S DECIDE THROUGH A GAME OF POKER.


EH? ISN'T THIS ALRIGHT?
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING MORE FORMAL TO WEAR?
THE NEW MEMBERS HAVE ARRIVED.
YOUNG MASTER.

ISN'T JUST WEARING AN OUTFIT ENOUGH?
Y-YOU REALLY...


THEY LOOK ANNOYING, GET THEM OUT.
Wuh, taste good.

WHO'S THAT KID?
AH, THEY ARE THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF A FAST-GROWING I.T. COMPANY.

...SO...
S-SO MANY RICH FOLKS HERE...
SO CUTE...!!
NATSUKI-SAN....
ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, SHE'S THE SECRETARY MORI NATSUKI.
YES
WHAT ABOUT THE LADY?

I AM TAKAMATSU. NICE TO MEET YOU.
CARESS
WELCOME TO MY PARTY.
EH...
Huh!?
Shrink back
AAAAAAHHHHHH——
HUFF
HUFF
HOLD IT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ～～?
ANOTHER WIN.
THAT'S 4...NO, 5 WINS IN A ROW!?

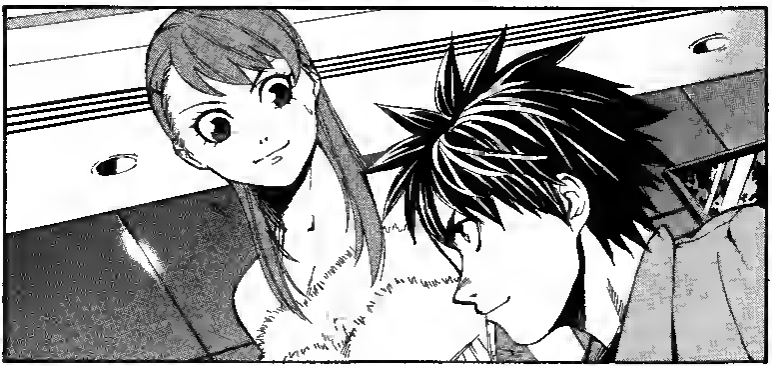
WHO IS THIS YOUNG MAN!?
2,3... AT LEAST 500 THOUSAND?
MAN.I... NO, PRESI-DENT
S-SORRY, PLEASE EXCUSE ME
I-I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M LEAVING THE TABLE...
AH,
SORRY, I WAS THE ONE WINNING THE WHOLE TIME.
ME TOO...
HUH!?
GASP

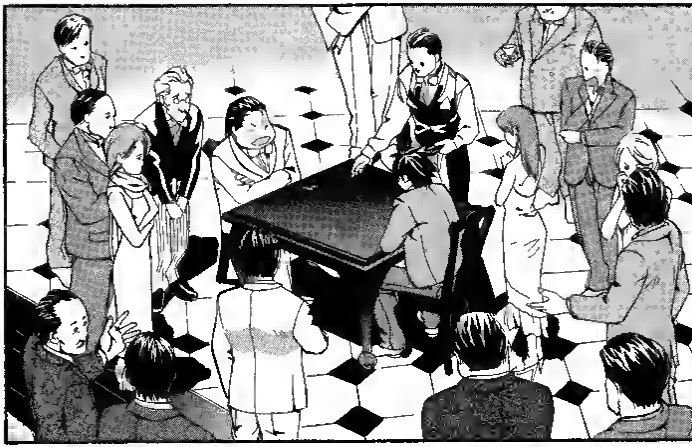
I ONLY REMEMBER COMPANIES WITH ANNUAL BUSINESS DEALINGS AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN 1 BILLION!
AH, THAT'S EMBARRASSING .....
AH, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU ARE HAVING FUN
UH, I RECALL THAT YOU ARE...
I'm scared!
COMPARED TO TAKAMATSU-SAN, MY COMPANY IS NOTHING.
EVEN THIS TABLE LOOKS GOOD.
THE DESIGN AND THE CONDITION IS EXCELLENT.
MOST IMPORTANT THOUGH...
IT HAS LUCK!!
I'VE ALREADY GOT 5 WINS IN A ROW.

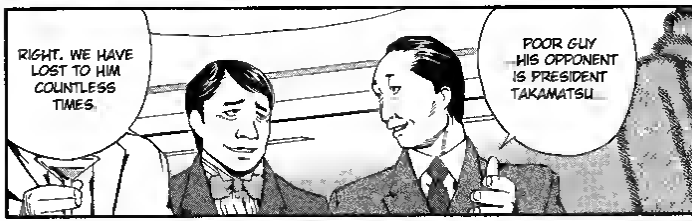
DO YOU THINK MONEY IS EVERYTHING TO ME?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY LUCKY ONE HERE!!
CAN I DISCUSS THE PRICE WITH YOU? IS IT ALRIGHT TO HAND OVER THIS TABLE TO ME?
HEY
JUST NAME YOUR PRICE
YOU KID, HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME, THE TOP ELITE OF TAKAMATSU CORPORATION, LIKE AN EQUAL!!
BUT, WHAT ANGERS ME MOST IS
PLEASE.
...ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER WAY?
PAK

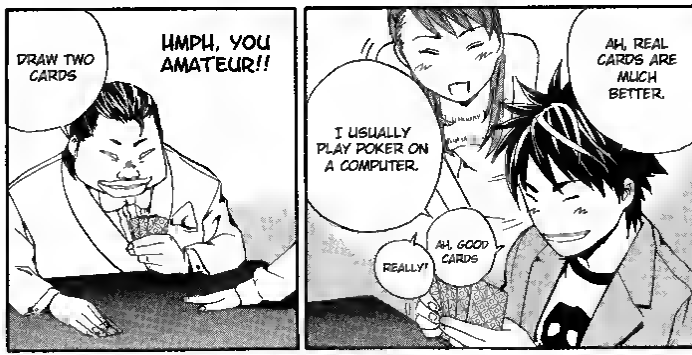
HE'S STANDING IN THE WAY OF MINE AND NATSUKI-SAN'S LOVE!!
ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT? YOU BRAT...
...HMPH! I'LL SHOW YOU.
I'LL HUMILIATE YOU IN PUBLIC!
YOU ARE MANJOU-KUN RIGHT?
IF YOU REALLY WANT THIS TABLE, I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU...
BUT——
FLIP

YOU HAVE TO BEAT ME IN POKER!



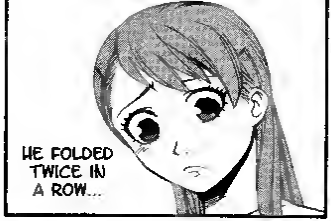



RIGHT. WE HAVE LOST TO HIM COUNTLESS TIMES.
POOR GUY HIS OPPONENT IS PRESIDENT TAKAMATSU

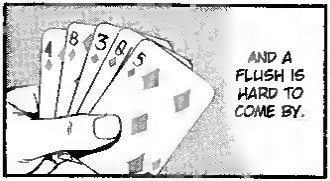

DRAW TWO CARDS
UMPH, YOU AMATEUR!!
I USUALLY PLAY POKER ON A COMPUTER.
REALLY!
AH, GOOD CARDS
AH, REAL CARDS ARE MUCH BETTER.

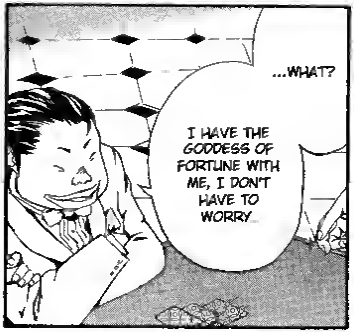
I WILL TORTURE YOU JOYFULLY !!
THIS...
I'LL PLAY IT SAFE AND ONLY BET 10 THOUSAND FOR NOW.
.....
RIGHT, SO HOW MUCH WILL YOU BET?
I HAVE A FULL HOUSE!!
9 OF SPADES
9 OF CLUBS
9 OF DIAMONDS
ACE OF DIAMONDS
ACE OF SPADES
FOLD.
...HMPH, THAT'S WAS A CLOSE CALL FOR YOU.

I WILL DRAW 2 CARDS
...SAME FOR ME
SHUUU
SHUUU
BET 20 THOUSAND
RIGHT
FOLD.


HE FOLDED TWICE IN A ROW...

WHAT !?


AND A FLUSH IS HARD TO COME BY.


...WHAT?
I HAVE THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE WITH ME, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FOLD, YOUR CHIPS WILL KEEP GOING DOWN!?
HEH, PRESIDENT, WHAT IS IT?

...WHAT GODDESS!? WHAT TRICK IS HE UP TO? OR IS HE JUST A JERK...?
THEN I'LL ATTEMPT A BLUFF.

NO NEED FOR THAT!!
DO YOU WANT TO DRAW?
..NO..
WHISPER
WHISPER
BUT, TAKAMATSU WILL BE CAUTIOUS AND FOLD AGAIN
EH? NOT DRAWING? DOES HE HAVE A SET OF GOOD CARDS?
..GOOD,
I'LL [CALL]!
SHEE

HMPH
A PAIR OF 10'S ...
CALL!?
THEN, PLEASE SHOW YOUR CARDS.
AH! THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE IS ON MY SIDE ..
HE'S JUST BLUFFING.
HAHA, JUST A PAIR
2 PAIR, 4'S AND 2'S!!
!?

I BLUFFED JUST NOW, BUT HE CALLED WITH JUST 2 PAIR!?
...THIS GUY ...ISN'T JUST A NORMAL JERK!!
HEE
MANJ- ...NO, PRESIDENT ...
PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY
PRESIDENT, ARE YOU LISTENING ~~~?
AH, I GET IT, I GET IT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AH, THAT...
A TRICK TABLE-!?

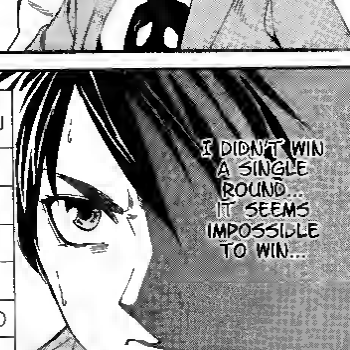
I can't see it at all
HUH..
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE DEVICE?
IN THE PAST, CHEATERS WOULD DEVISE VARIOUS WAYS OF CHEATING
GUNN—
IN POKER, EVEN HIDING AN ACE BEFOREHAND WOULD BE A HUGE ADVANTAGE.
WHEN YOU ACTIVATE THE SWITCH IN THE KNOB OF THE TABLE LEG,
A SLIT IN THE TABLE WILL EJECT CARDS, A MECHANISM KNOWN AS [HOLD OUT].
TAKAMATSU MUST BE USING A [HOLD OUT] TRICK.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, TO PROVE HIM GUILTY, I MUST CATCH HIM RED-HANDED...!!
SLT—

.....
ARE YOU REALLY WATCHING CLOSELY?
O-OF COURSE!!
I DIDN'T SEE ANY MOVEMENTS FROM TAKAMATSU!?
BUT TAKAMATSU ONLY HAD 2 PAIR... HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE USING A HOLD OUT.
...AS LONG AS HE'S USING THE HOLD OUT DEVICE, HE CAN OBTAIN A GOOD HAND AND WIN EVERY TIME...
IT'S LIKE HE KNEW MY CARDS...!
HEE
HEE
ALSO, WHEN I HAD A FULL HOUSE OR FLUSH, TAKAMATSU QUICKLY CHOOSE TO FOLD.

OR IS IT----
IS IT A COINCIDENCE?
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER FISH TOOK THE BAIT.
WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING?
NO, NOT NOW.
DO YOU WANT A DRINK?
SHIT
TOO BAD---
I HAVE A FULL HOUSE.
WHISPER
WHISPER
POOR GUY.
FLUSH!!
REVEAL YOUR CARDS.

THAT GUY ONLY BETS ON THE HANDS HE CAN WIN!

	MANJOU	TAKAMATSU
1st Round	FULL HOUSE	FOLD
2nd Round	FLUSH	FOLD
3rd Round	1 PAIR	2 PAIR
4th Round	3 OF A KIND	FOLD
5th Round	1 PAIR OF 3	1 PAIR OF 10
6th Round	STRAIGHT	FOLD
7th Round	2 PAIR	3 OF A KIND
8th Round	FLUSH	FULL HOUSE



A PAIR OF ACES---
I'M BETTING...
500 THOUSAND!!
I WILL TEST HIM AGAIN!!
MANJOU-KUN...
..DID HE GET GOOD CARDS AGAIN!?
DIDN'T I SAY...
I HAVE THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE WITH ME...
...!? SO THIS GUY CAN REALLY ~~~!?
NO, NO, I DON'T KNOW. IT'S 500 THOUSAND AFTER ALL!
HE'S BLUFFING AGAIN.

2 PAIR KINGS AND 7'S.
SEE THROUGH MY CARDS!!

HE DIDN'T USE A HOLD OUT!?
NO...NO MOVEMENTS AT ALL!!
NATSUKI-SAN...
HOW DID TAKAMATSU...
PIK
IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW---
KICK
COULD IT BE...
THIS, THIS IS...
!?

!
SHUU
WHAT'S THAT? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM...?
THIS IS...
OUR CLIENT DIDN'T REALLY WANT THE TABLE BACK,
HE WANTED THIS THING.
EH?
NATSUKI-SAN, I HAVE SOLVED ONE OF THE MYSTERIES

EH? S...
Twitch Twitch
M!?
.....
Queen Lisa ♡
HE'LL BE ERASED COMPLETELY FROM OUR WORLD...
After all he is a lawyer
IF SOMEONE ELSE SEES THIS...
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
NO.
Click
YAH, HOLD IT...
ALTHOUGH WE LOST SOME MONEY, WE CAN STILL USE AN EXCUSE.
B-BUT, THAT'S GREAT. SO WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR TARGET.

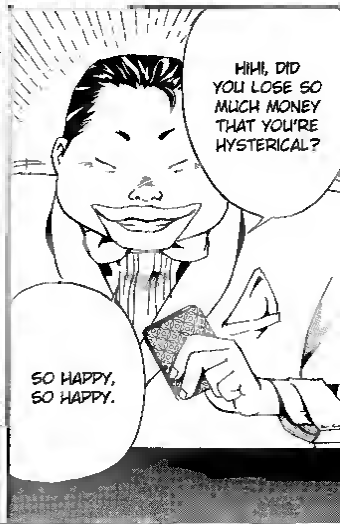
TO BEAT THIS GUY!!

TAKAMATSU IS USING SOMETHING TO CHEAT, THAT'S WHY HE KNOWS MY CARDS---
FLIP
FLIP
THE PROBLEM IS HOW IS HE DOING IT.
HEE
HI-HI-HI
THAT METHOD IS---..
NO, NO WAY!!
HEH..
Man, you-sun is showing signs of regressing into a primitive human
HOW CAN I, THE PROTAGONIST, STRUGGLE AGAINST THIS JERK?
AH--- IT'S FRUSTRATING! BIOLOGICALLY... NO, IT'S EVEN BEYOND THE CELLULAR LEVEL!!
PUFFLE
PUFFLE

SEE THROUGH HIS TRICK!!
I NEED TO FOCUS NOW...
HIHI
UWAH!
UWAAH
!?
IT'S HURTS... SHOW SOME SELF-CONTROL
REPENT!!
EH!
THIS IS...
DID I HIT HIM TOO HARD?
HMHM HMHM

I FINALLY FIGURE OUT ...HIS WINNING STRATEGY!!
THE GORDIAN KNOT HAS BEEN SEVERED.

HOLD IT...


HIHI, DID YOU LOSE SO MUCH MONEY THAT YOU'RE HYSTERICAL?
SO HAPPY, SO HAPPY.

FOR THE LAST MATCH ...
WANT TO RAISE THE STAKES?
MANJOU-KUN!?
ALTHOUGH WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION, VICTORY IS A MUST...
...BUT TO DETERMINE THE OUTCOME THROUGH 1 GAME, HE'S TOO RECKLESS.

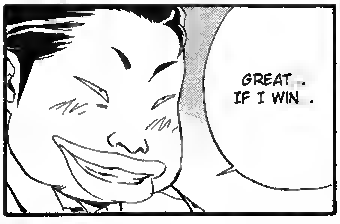
BUT,
IF I WIN,
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IF YOU WIN, I GIVE YOU THIS TABLE AND RETURN ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE LOST...
HM, IF WE CARRY ON LIKE THIS, THE OUTCOME IS PREDICTABLE, THAT WOULD BE TOO BORING.
I WANT THAT LADY!

RIGHT... MANJOU. .
USING PEOPLE AS STAKES...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR MIND?
EH!?
YOU, YOU, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
Hmm.
DON'T ACCEPT IT!!
I ACCEPT IT!
THIS, THIS THING HERE ..
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
GRRR
STRANGLING!!
GOLLA!!
THIS DAMNED GAMBLE!!
No it's not that.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

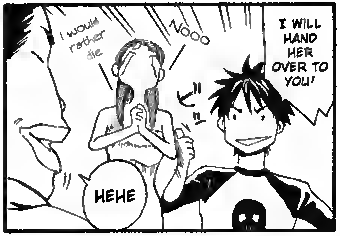
P-POKER CARDS!?
HE PLANS TO CHEAT!?
!?
SHHH
..HAVE YOU DECIDED YET?
CLANK
THEN, WE'LL CONDUCT A BODY SEARCH...
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE

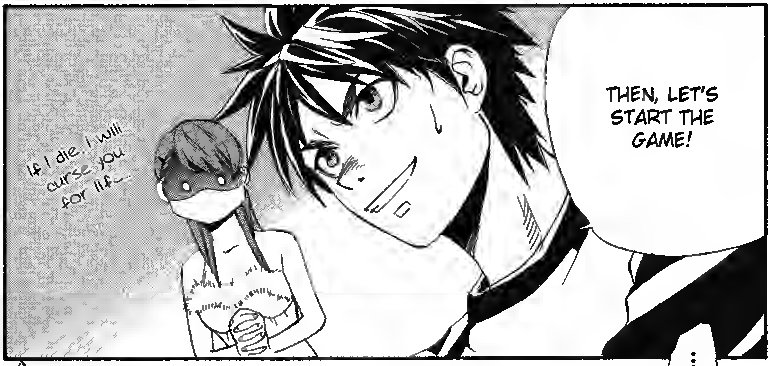
DURING THIS IMPORTANT MATCH, IT WOULD BE BAD IF SOMEONE CHEATS!!
ACE OF HEARTS, ♡
KING OF SPADES... ♠
AND ALSO ACE OF CLUBS... ♣
pak!
HOW DARE YOU HIDE SO MANY CARDS...
SO CLOSE, SO CLOSE

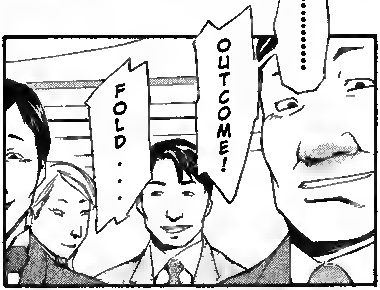
...DAMN...
IT'S BAD IN SO MANY WAYS!?
HMPH
EVEN THE LAST TRUMP CARD IS GONE...
AH, WARRIOR-SAMA...
ISN'T IT NICE? PEASANT?
THIS MIGHT BE REALLY BAD!!


GREAT.
IF I WIN.

Oh, God!
THEN, WE WON'T USE THE ANTE RULE FROM HERE IN...
THE FIRST ONE TO WIN IS THE WINNER. YOU CAN ONLY FOLD 5 TIMES... IS THIS ALRIGHT?


I WILL HAND HER OVER TO YOU!
NOOO
I would rather die
HEHE


THEN, LET'S START THE GAME!
If I die, I will curse you for it...


.....
OUTCOME!
FOLD...

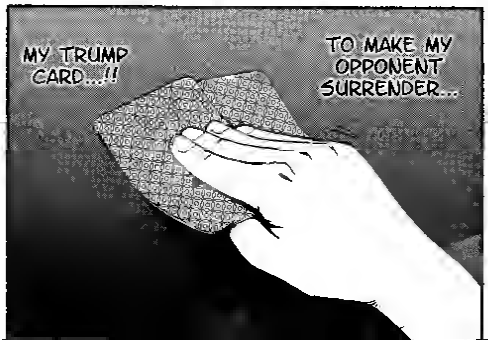
OUTCOME!
FOLD...
WHO
OUTCOME!
PEE

SO BOTH SIDES HAVE ONLY 1 LAST CHANCE TO FOLD. IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE FINAL OUTCOME ...
... FOLD.
BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU PLAY, THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN DECIDED FROM THE BEGINNING
WHY? BECAUSE I----
CAN SEE...
YOUR CARDS!!

AS LONG AS I AM USING THIS DECK, I WILL NEVER LOSE!
I BOUGHT THIS DECK OF CHEATING CARDS FROM AN AMERICAN GAMBLER

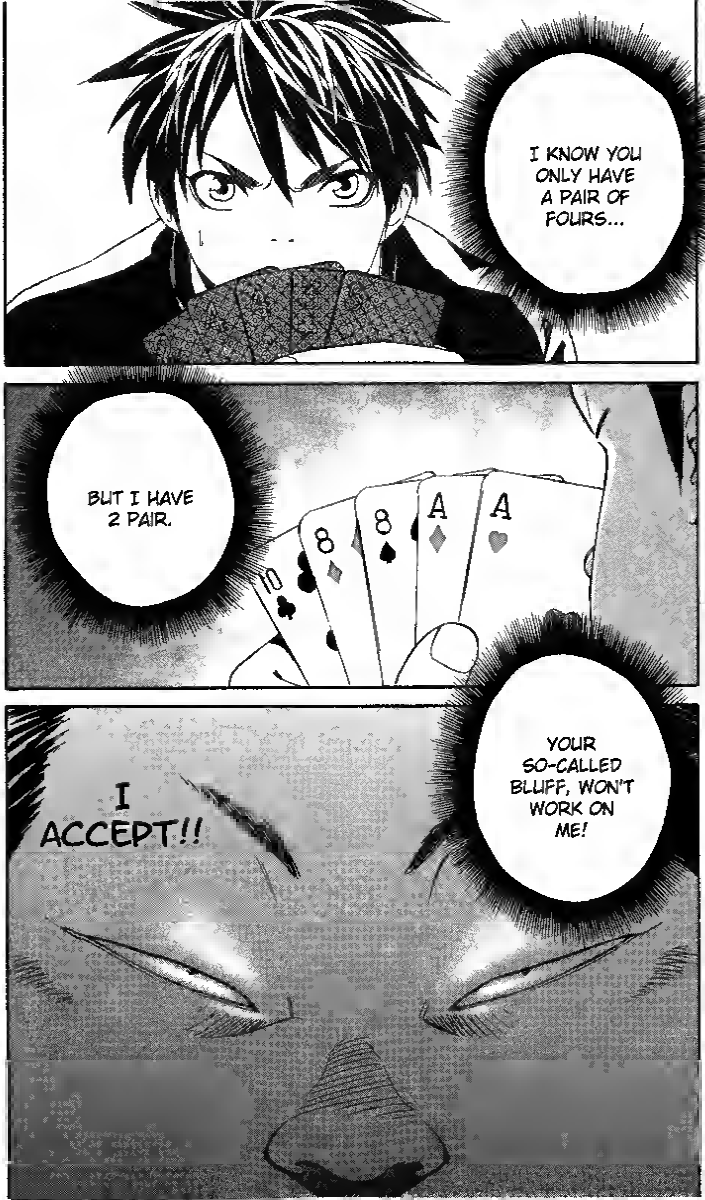
I HAVE COME THIS FAR...
ONLY 1 CHANCE LEFT FOR ME TO FOLD...

DRAW 2 CARDS...


MY TRUMP CARD...!!
TO MAKE MY OPPONENT SURRENDER...

FINALLY!!
!!
A TACTIC...
TO DEFEAT THIS GUY...?!
5
3
4
4
2
2

THE FINAL OUTCOME !!
Pak!
MANJOU-KUN...
NO, IT MAY NOT BE THAT.
AFTER ALL THAT HE'S BLUFFING AGAIN.
AH!
...IDIOT!!!


I KNOW YOU ONLY HAVE A PAIR OF FOURS...
BUT I HAVE 2 PAIR.
YOUR SO-CALLED BLUFF, WON'T WORK ON ME!
I ACCEPT!!

AH, TAKAMATSU ACCEPTED...
FINALLY IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL OUTCOME!!

FLIP
ACE'S AND 8'S, A PAIR OF EACH!!
HEE!

2 PAIR!?
IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...
IS IT BECAUSE HE SAW THROUGH HIS OPPONENT'S BLUFF?
MANJOU, HOW IS IT?
THE VICTORY HAS BEEN DETERMINED...
HURRY SHOW ME YOUR CARDS!!

MANJ... MANJOU-KUN, WHAT IS IT!?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE...
YOU DON'T SURRENDER EASILY!!
REVEAL YOUR CARDS!!
MY CARDS ARE ..
2
3
AND THE LAST ONE IS-
FLIP
5
4

ACE!!
PAK

WAAAHHH
IT'S A STRAIGHT!!
HOW PITIFUL
PRESIDENT TAKMATSU ...
LOST!?
T-THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...
W-WHY!?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
Great
WE DID IT-! WE WON-!!
HUG
UHH...

THE GODDESS, BECAUSE OF THE IMPERFECTIONS OF YOUR SOUL...
SHE HAS SLIPPED AWAY!!

HOW COULD I HAVE MISTAKEN...
AN ACE AND A 4!?
SLAP
HOW, HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN~~~?
DAMN~~~!!
EH!?

THAT PRESIDENT REALLY CHEATED?
MUNCH MUNCH
SLAM
EH—!?
HE DIDN'T EVEN USE HIS MONEY TO BLUFF..
Eggs hamburger again.
THAT GUY WOULD ONLY BET WHEN HE HAD BETTER CARDS THAN MINE.
YES...
HOW DID HE DO THAT...? PSYCHIC POWERS!?
BACK OF THE CARDS!?
At least treat me in restaurant.
HE SAW THE NUMBERS FROM THE BACK OF THE CARDS!

AH, SO YOU CAN SEE IT BY [CROSSING YOUR EYES]...
UHHH
3D BOOK
IT WAS QUITE POPULAR SOME TIME AGO.
HIDDEN LETTERS AND NUMBERS, THINGS LIKE THAT.
HEY HEY...
SO THAT'S IT.
BUT IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU FOUND OUT
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PROMINENT MARKINGS ENGRAVED ON THE BACK OF THE CARDS, HE KNEW MY CARDS
OF, OF COURSE.
HAH HAH HAH HAH
.....

...EH!?
SOMETHING'S WRONG...
IF TAKAMATSU KNEW YOUR CARDS, WHY WOULD HE BET WHEN HE WOULD LOSE THE GAME!?
SO THAT'S WHY YOU CHALLENGED HIM RECKLESSLY.
IF YOU KNOW YOUR OPPONENT'S CARDS, THEN YOU WON'T EVER LOSE.
SO THAT'S WHY.
AH, ABOUT THAT. ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T HAVE A STRAIGHT,
IT WAS A PAIR OF 4'S.

YOU ARE REALLY SLOW!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
1
しゅうう
A STRAIGHT ?
1 PAIR BECAME
A STRAIGHT
1 pair
4 2 3 4 5
replace
4
IT'S LIKE THIS!
AH!!
BUT, HOW DID YOU DO THAT...? WEREN'T ALL YOUR HIDDEN CARDS CONFISCATED ...?
YOU CHEATED !?

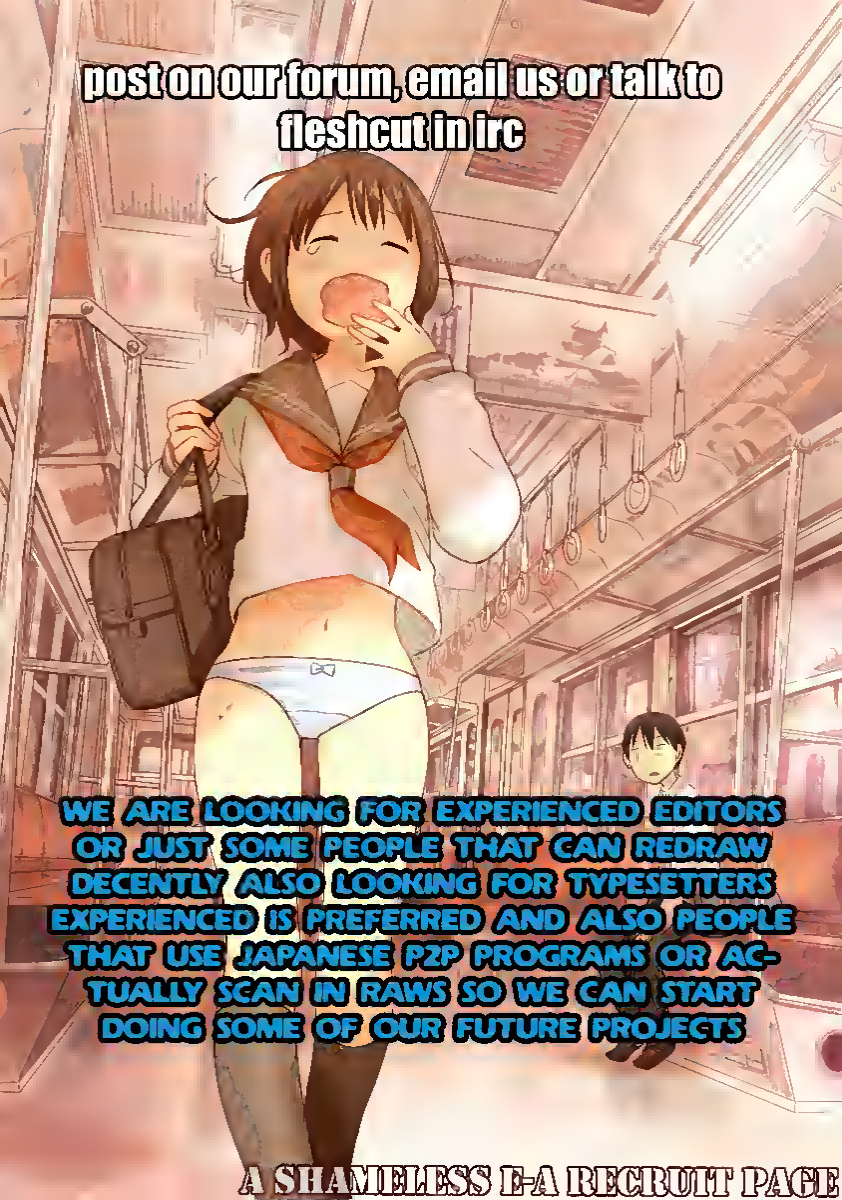
AFTER REPLACING THE PHOTO, I SLIPPED IN AN ACE TOO.
SLAM
IT'S A HOLD OUT!!
RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT!
THIS BRAT'S SKILLS,
..AH
ARE REALLY AMAZING
STUN
HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN, IT'S INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE.
HA HA
TRIP

CRUSH
BAM!!
GO TO HELL!!
CRASH
AAHH
JUMP
SIGH, WHAT A BLEAK FUTURE.

THE GORDIAN KNOT

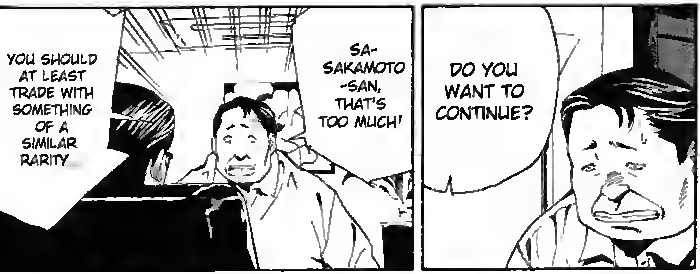
ENDLESS ABYSS
#E-A@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://ENDLESSABYSS.HOSTS6.COM/

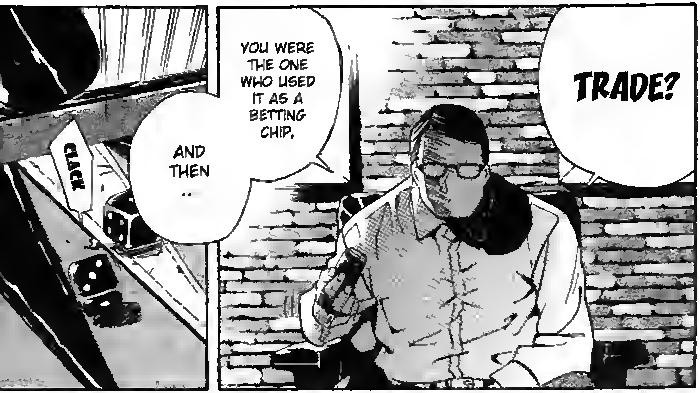
TRANSLATOR LINSHAOLEE
EDITOR PHAEDRIS
PROOFREADER WOLFF
QC'ER DASHED, BEARKING


post on our forum, email us or talk to
fleshcut in irc
WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED EDITORS
OR JUST SOME PEOPLE THAT CAN REDRAW
DECENTLY ALSO LOOKING FOR TYPESETTERS
EXPERIENCED IS PREFERRED AND ALSO PEOPLE
THAT USE JAPANESE P2P PROGRAMS OR AC-
TUALLY SCAN IN RAWS SO WE CAN START
DOING SOME OF OUR FUTURE PROJECTS
A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUIT PAGE

哥帝爾斯的繩結

MISSION 3：
CASTING DOUBLES



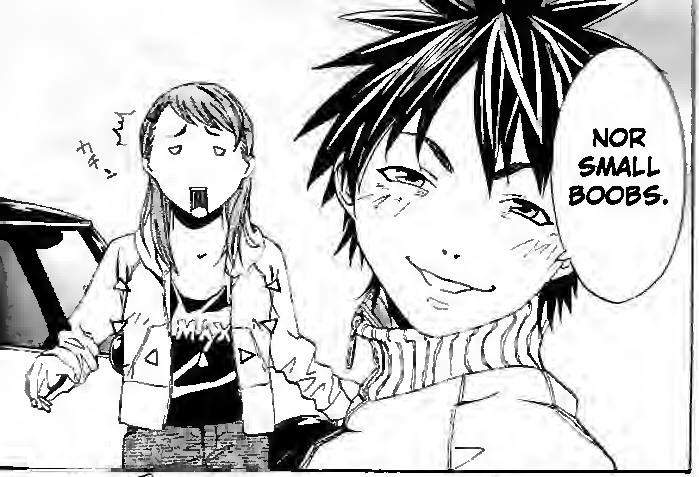


*REFERS TO THE CONDITION OF AN ITEM OR COLLECTION. THE TEST RANGING FROM MINT, NEAR MINT, EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR.

LOST IN THE GAME!
COME ON
COME ON !!!
I LOST TEN THOUSAND
HEHE, IT'S OUR LUCKY DAY TODAY!
EVEN IF IT'S BANJO HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY CHEAT IN A PACHINKO GAME!
A JACK-POT!
I GOT A JACK-POT!

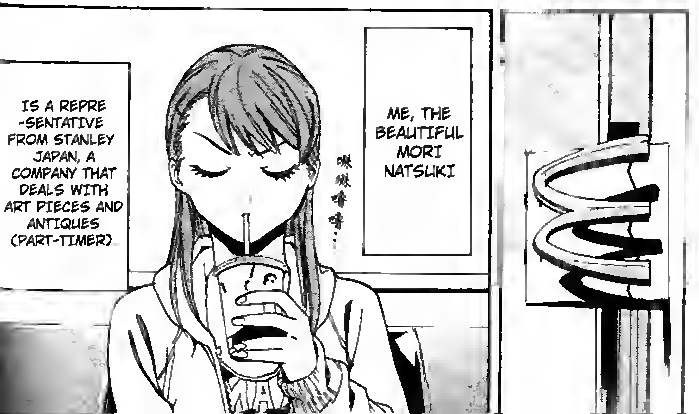
WHAT THE HELL?!
OH, IT'S TIME ALREADY?
HOW... HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
AIYA... A LOT CAME OUT.

IT WAS MINE IN THE FIRST LACE...
WAIT BANJO... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?
HUH ?!
ALRIGHT, OSSAN. I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU
HM ...
SO THIS IS THE PROMISED DVD.
I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN MONEY ...
NAH!
HOW EMBARRASSING SING
AND SHE HAS HUGE TITS!
AH! SHE'S THE ONE THEY SAY LOOKS LIKE AN IDOL!
BUT IT WAS SUCH A PITY, AND THERE WERE SO MANY PACHINKO BALLS TOO


NOR SMALL BOOBS.

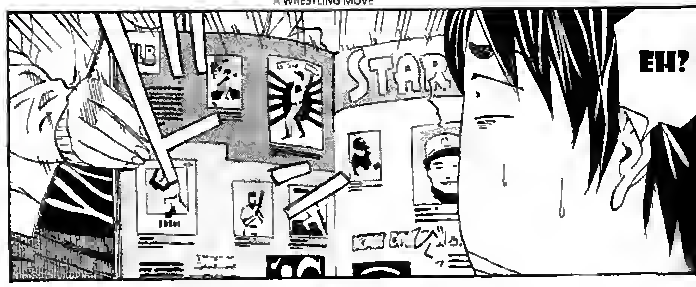
WAHHH JUNKO!!!

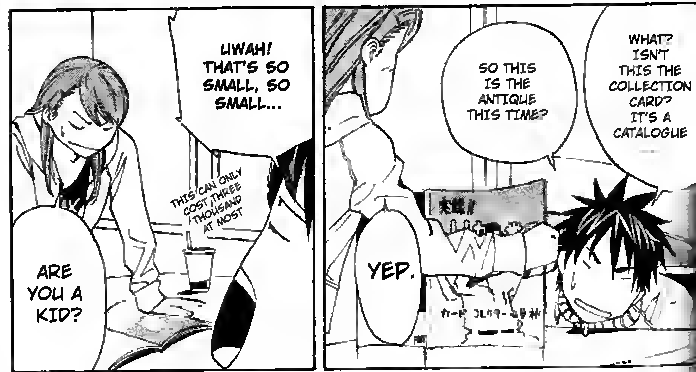
A KILLING AURA?


IS A REPRE -SENTATIVE FROM STANLEY JAPAN, A COMPANY THAT DEALS WITH ART PIECES AND ANTIQUES (PART-TIMER)
ME, THE BEAUTIFUL MORI NATSUKI
咻咻咻...

AND TODAY I AM ALSO TREATING (ABUSING) HIM VERY WELL!
YOU NEVER CHANGE!
THEREFORE I HIRED A PERVERSE YOUNG MAN WHO GOT A 99% ACCURACY RATE ON THE FAMOUS "GORDIAN KNOT" AS MY TRUMP CARD.
HOWEVER THERE ARE SOME DIFFICULT DEALERS WHO COME UP WITH RIDICULOUS REQUESTS
AH, IT HURTS!
*FALO SPECIAL IS REALLY DANGEROUS
HOO HOO HOO...

*A WRESTLING MOVE



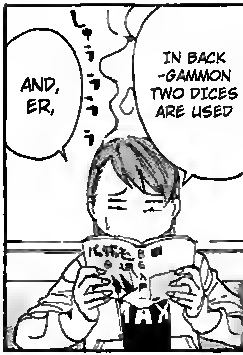

UWAH! THAT'S SO SMALL, SO SMALL...
THIS CAN ONLY COST THREE THOUSAND AT MOST
ARE YOU A KID?
WHAT? ISN'T THIS THE COLLECTION CARD? IT'S A CATALOGUE
SO THIS IS THE ANTIQUE THIS TIME?
YEP.

FOR EXAM -PLE ...
THIS IS WORTH 50 THOUSAND YEN!
WHAT ?!
LOOK, THIS IS 50 THOUSAND,
THIS IS 50 THOU -SAND, 50 THOUSAND, 50 THOU -SAND...
COLLECTING SPORTS CARDS IS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED HOBBY!
TSK TSK
AM I A FO -OL?
A FEW DAYS AGO
NO.. IT'S TROUBLESOME RIGHT? HOW DO I SAY THIS..
WISHY WASHY
WELL IT'S SOMETHING COMMON BETWEEN COLLEC -TORS..
CLIENT HABU MASASHI
COLLECTIBLES ARE NORMALLY BROUGHT FROM EXHIBITIONS OR AUCTIONS...
HE DOESN'T MAKE EYE CONTACT AT ALL

AH! THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED TRADING CARDS!
OOI SEC -TION CHIEF!
IF WE GET A DUPLICATE OR SOME THING WITHOUT VALUE
WE WILL TRADE WITH OTHER COLLECTORS.
FIASSA
THAT'S RIGHT. I GOT TO KNOW THIS COLLECTOR CALLED SAKAMOTO
HIS COLLECTION IS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO MINE, AND WE HAVE TRADED MANY TIMES
BUT ... BUT!
YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER EH, NATSUKI
AFTER I GOT TO KNOW HIM MORE I REALISED THAT WE HAVE SIMILAR HOBBIES, SUCH AS GAMBLING AND GAMES
AND THEN WE STARTED TO BET OUR COLLECTION DURING THE GAMES.

I'VE NEVER WON AGAINST HIM, NOT EVEN ONCE!
AND IT'S BEEN 10 CONSECUTIVE LOSSES!
WHAT A DRASTIC MOOD SWING ...
AND THEN I HEARD THAT SAKAMOTO USED THE SAME METHOD TO GET A LOT OF CARDS FROM OTHER COLLECTORS
I'M NOT SATISFIED, I'M NOT SATISFIED!
I UNDERSTAND WE'LL ACCEPT YOUR CASE. SO PLEASE DON'T BE LIKE THIS
EH... WHAT KIND OF GAMES ARE THOSE BY THE WAY?
IT'S BACKGAMMON
EH ……

HM, BUT THERE ARE MANY SPECIFIC RULES
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, AS LONG AS ALL 15 OF YOUR PIECES ARRIVES AT THE FINISHING POINT YOU WIN
WHAT? YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

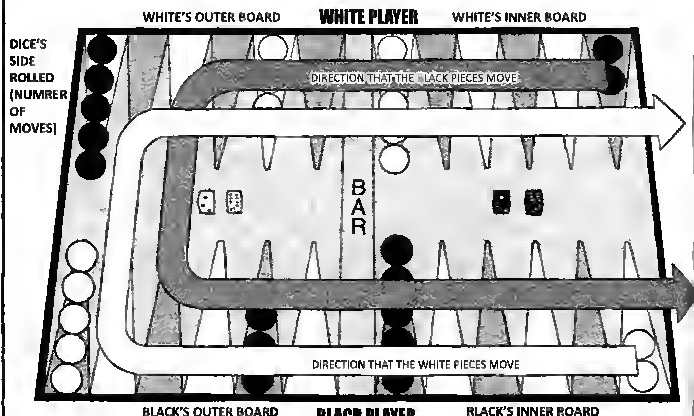


RULES OF BACKGAMMON

EACH PERSON GETS 2 DICE. THE AIM IS TO LET ALL YOUR 15 PIECES REACH THE GOAL BEFORE YOUR OPPONENT.

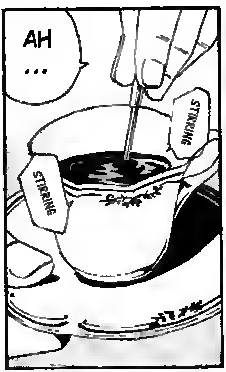
EACH PLAYER ROLLS THE DIE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THEIR BOARD, AND ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER THAT YOU ROLL, MOVE YOUR PIECES ACCORDINGLY.

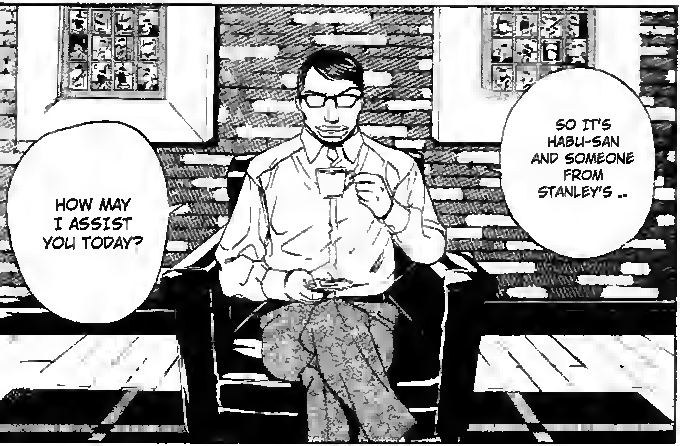
EG. FOR A "2" AND "3" ROLLED, YOU CAN MOVE 2 PIECES WITH 2 STEPS AND 3 STEPS, OR MOVE 1 PIECE WITH 2 + 3 = 5 STEPS

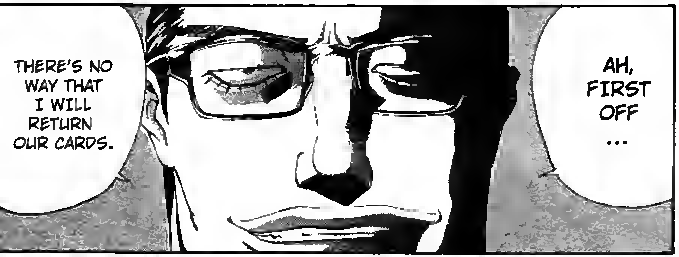


BUT
I WON'T LOSE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES
THUMPS
SO, WE CAN WIN EASILY THIS TIME?
HM
PLAYING
↑PACHINKO BALL
THAT MAN LOST 10 TIMES IN A ROW.
LEFT OR RIGHT?
THIS SIDE!
IT'S NOT THAT THE CLIENT IS BAD AT THE GAME
EH? THEN IT'S THIS SIDE?

IT'S THE OPPONENT THAT'S CHEATING.


AH ...
STIRRING
STIRRING

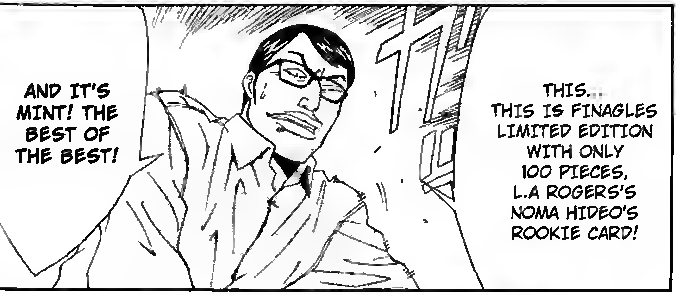

SO IT'S HABU-SAN AND SOMEONE FROM STANLEY'S ..
HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU TODAY?

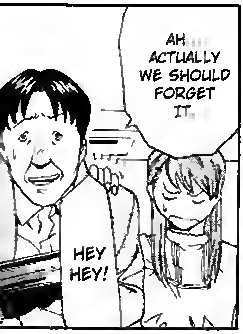

AH, FIRST OFF ...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I WILL RETURN OUR CARDS.

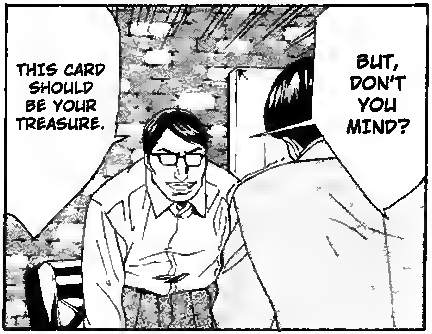
BECAUSE THEY WERE USED AS BETTING CHIPS IN OUR GAME
.....

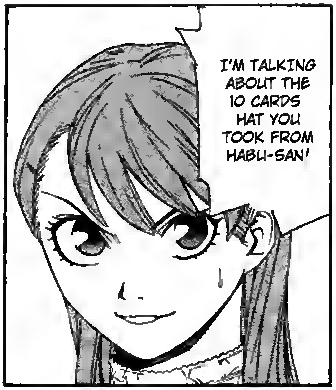
NO... TO BE MORE PRECISE...
TODAY I CAME HERE TO CHALLENGE YOU AGAIN WITH BACKGAMMON.
I UNDER-STAND.
HEH...
I WISH FOR YOU TO PLAY A GAME WITH THIS YOUNG MAN
WELL...
BUT, I SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH. WHAT SHALL WE BET WITH?
YOU ARE USING SOMEONE LIKE THIS?
AH NO PROBLEM HABU-SAN, COULD IT BE THAT YOU WERE SO BACKED INTO A CORNER THAT...

WITH THIS.
HIDEO NOMA
ROOKIE 16
!!


AND IT'S MINT! THE BEST OF THE BEST!
THIS... THIS IS FINAGLES LIMITED EDITION WITH ONLY 100 PIECES, L.A ROGERS'S NOMA HIDEO'S ROOKIE CARD!


AH... ACTUALLY WE SHOULD FORGET IT.
HEY HEY!


THIS CARD SHOULD BE YOUR TREASURE.
BUT, DON'T YOU MIND?



[1] BOTH PLAYERS WILL CAST A DIE, THE PLAYER WITH THE BIGGER POINTS GOES FIRST

1 AND 2 HUH ... SIGH
IT'S MY TURN.
NEXT IS ...
HMM
GOOD, GOOD ...
YEAH!
DOUBLES 4!
SPITS
I'M CONFI -DENT!
AWE -SOME!

IN BACKGAMMON, ONE DIE CORRESPONDS WITH 1 PIECE

FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU GET 2 AND 3

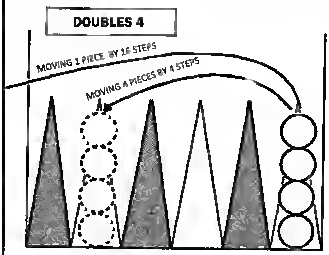
OH YOU!

AH, SORRY I GOT EXCITED

BUT, THAT'S A NICE NUMBER!

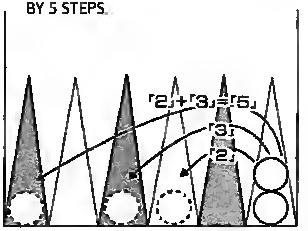
EH? WHY?

BUT IF YOU GET DOUBLETS, THE NUMBER OF PIECES AND STEPS THAT YOU CAN MOVE IS DOUBLED



YOU CAN MOVE 2 PIECES BY 2 AND 3 STEPS RESPECTIVELY.

OR ONE PIECE BY 5 STEPS.



AH ...

I SEE ...

好!

BACKGAMMON IS A KIND OF DOUBLES 6, CASTING DOUBLES IS AN ABSOLUTE ADVANTAGE.

2 AND 5!
BLACK PIECE HIT!
HIT!?
YES
IN A POINT*, IF THERE ARE MORE THAN 2 OF THE OPPONENT'S PIECE, YOUR PIECES CANNOT MOVE FORWARD.
BUT IF THERE IS ONLY 1 PIECE ON THE POINT,
YOU CAN SAY "HIT" AND REMOVE THE OPPONENT'S PIECE ONTO THE BAR.
PIECES THAT WERE PLACED ONTO THE BAR HAS TO START ALL OVER AGAIN.
A RESTART.
HIT!

T/N *POINT REFERS TO THE POINTED EDGES WHERE THE PIECES ARE PLACED

I WAS CARELESS FOR A MOMENT AND HE IMME -DIATELY ATTACKED ME WITH A "HIT".
THIS KID IS INDEED ONE OF STANLEY'S ...
HE'S VERY CAPABLE!
.....
AS LONG AS I CAST WITH THESE DICE!
BUT, I WON'T LOSE.
.....
IN HOW I SOLVE PROBLEMS...
AH, YOU'RE INTERES -TED?
LET'S TAKE A SEAT
THAT DAMNED WOMAN
N- NO
BEFORE THIS ...
AH!
PREVIOUSLY THERE WERE YAKUZA, AND THEN I ALMOST HAD TO SELL MYSELF...
RELAX
THIS TIME IT'S PRETTY EASY
SHE'S YOUNG BUT IT APPEARS SHE HAS EXPERIENCED A LOT.....

GASP!
EVIL AURA?
OUCH!
U-WAH-HH!
O-WAH-HH!
WIPES WIPES
AHH WAHH WAHH
IS THAT TISSUE?
AND IT'S OTHER PEOPLE'S
SPILLED HERE
S-
SO FUN-NY!
BUT I CAN'T LAUGH
I'LL BE KILLED IF I LAUGH
HEH ...
A NOVELIST ONCE SAID SOMETHING INTERESTING ...

"GAMBLING IS A FIGHT FOR LUCK;
WHERE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF LUCK HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED
AND THE ONE WITH MORE LUCK SHALL BE VICTORIOUS."
BUT ... LUCK DISAPPEARS VERY EASILY
AS LONG AS THERE'S A EVEN A LITTLE CHANCE, IT VANISHES COMPLETELY
FOR EXAMPLE, THE "YOU" RIGHT NOW
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I'M SAYING ... YOUR LUCK FROM ALL THIS TIME ...
HAS DISAP -PEARED!

AND THE LUCK THAT HAS DESERTED YOU
IS FLOWING INTO ME!
THIS!

WHAT ...
IS THE GATHERING POINT OF ALL THE LUCK!

LUCK
HOW ...?
REVERSED?!
6
!!
DOUBLE
HEHE ... FIRST I WILL RETURN THE PIECE ON THE BAR!
AND DEFEAT 2 WHITE PIECES!

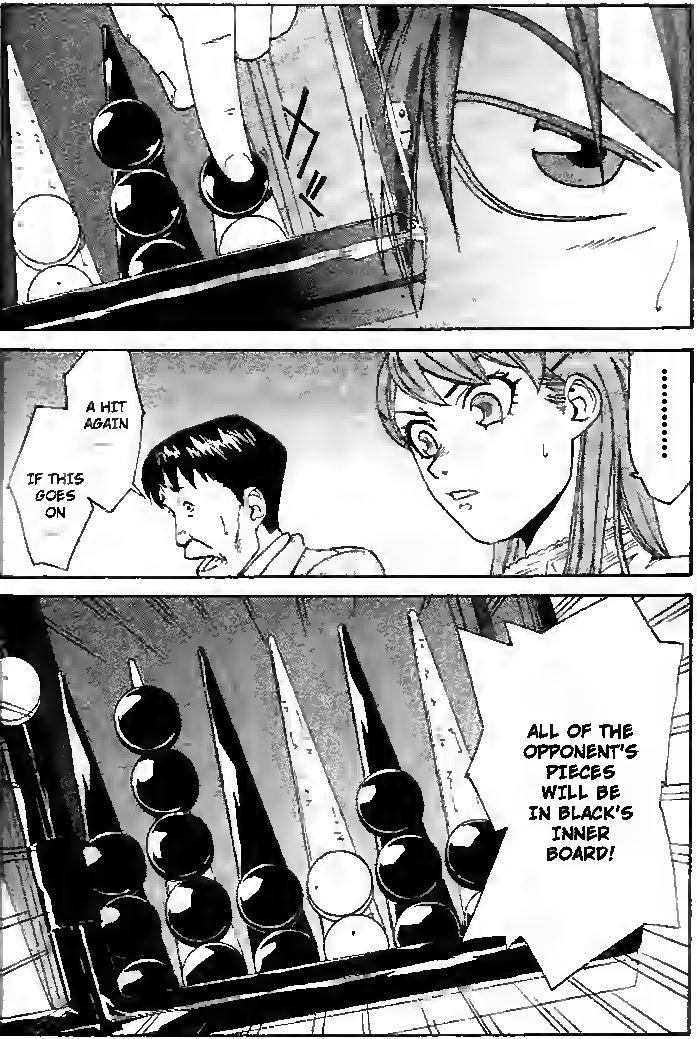
5
6
!!
OH NO ...
WHAT? HOW?
THE POINTS OF 5 AND 6 HAS BEEN BLOCKED!
LIKE THIS HE CAN'T RETURN THE PIECE ON THE BAR BACK TO THE BOARD!
UWAHAHA! LADY LUCK IS INDEED ON MY SIDE!

TWICE CONSECU -TIVELY?
DOUBLES, 6?
UNKNOW -INGLY
...H
BANJO
HE CAUGHT ON!
SAKAMOTO

BACKGAMMON RELIES HEAVILY ON STRATEGY.
BUT TO HAVE DOUBLES 6 IN A ROW ...IT'S RIDICULOUS!
IS THIS A COINCIDENCE?
OR ...
IT'S USE -LESS ...
HARU -SAN!
HAHA, YEAH ...
IF THIS CONTINUES I'LL DEFINITELY LOSE AGAIN.. AND HE'LL TAKE MY CARD.

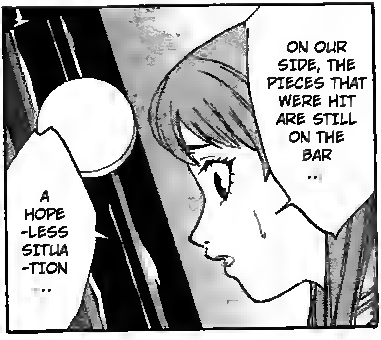
IN YOUR EYES, I MAY SEEM LIKE A FOOLISH ADULT.
TO CARE SO MUCH ABOUT A CARD ...
NO-NO SUCH THING!
LIAR!
TO A COLLECTOR, TO ME... THIS IS NOT JUST A CARD.
ESPECIALLY THIS NOMA'S CARD. IT SUPPORTED ME WHEN TIMES WERE HARD
NINE YEARS AGO, I WAS FIRED BY MY COMPANY... WITHOUT ANYONE TO SUPPORT ME, I WAS FORCED TO INTO A DEAD END...
THEN I SAW NOMA ON THE NEWS. HE FOUGHT HARD AND ENTERED THE LEAGUE ALONE. HE WHO WORKED HARD UNTIL THE END GAVE ME COURAGE TO CONTINUE ON...

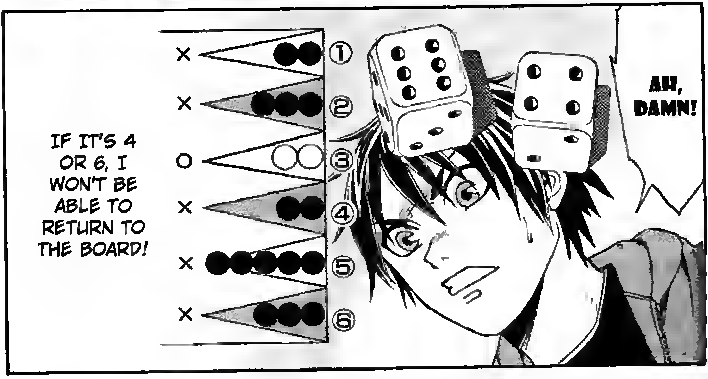
BANJO -KUN!
YEAH, I KNOW!
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA AT ALL
HABU -SAN ...
ALL ALONG, IT WAS MY LUCKY CHARM
BUT WE HOLD THE SAME FEELINGS
OF NOT WANTING TO LOSE!

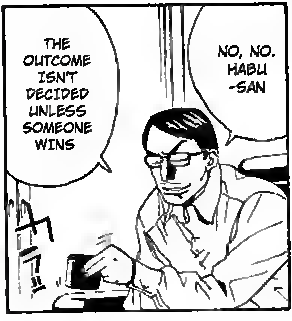


*T/N: IF YOUR OWN INNER BOARD CAN'T CONTAIN ALL OF YOUR PIECES, YOU CAN'T MOVE TOWARDS THE GOAL.

UGH ...

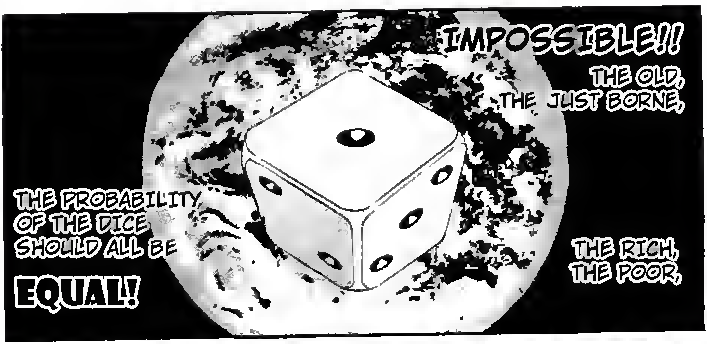

ON OUR SIDE, THE PIECES THAT WERE HIT ARE STILL ON THE BAR ...
A HOPE -LESS SITUA -TION ...


IF IT'S 4 OR 6, I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE BOARD!
AH, DAMN!

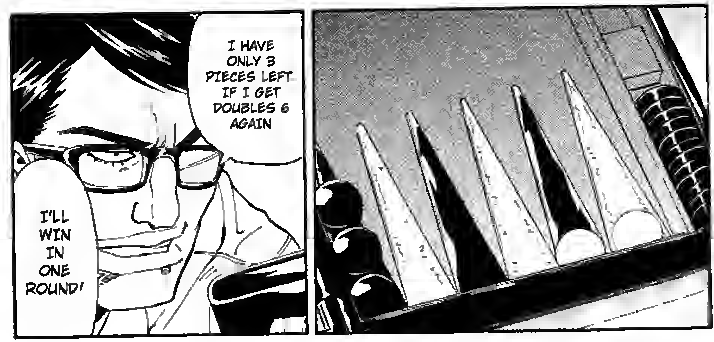

THE OUTCOME ISN'T DECIDED UNLESS SOMEONE WINS
NO, NO. HABU -SAN

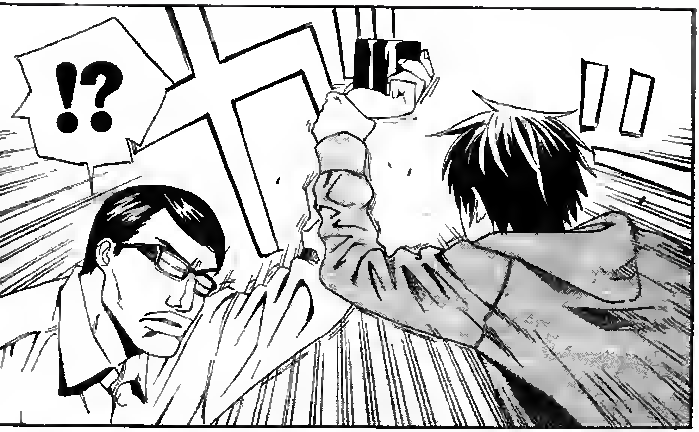
NO ...
NO WAY ...

DOUBLES 6 AGAIN?
……
AH . . IT'S DOUBLES 6!
BLACK HAS 4 PIECES THAT REACHED THE GOAL ALREADY.
IS THIS DUE TO LUCK?!
AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO CAST DOUBLES 6.

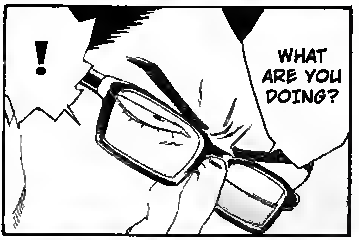

IMPOSSIBLE!!
THE OLD,
THE JUST BORNE,
THE PROBABILITY OF THE DICE SHOULD ALL BE
EQUAL!
THE RICH,
THE POOR,

THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE DICE!
IF THAT'S THE CASE
ガラ
ガラ

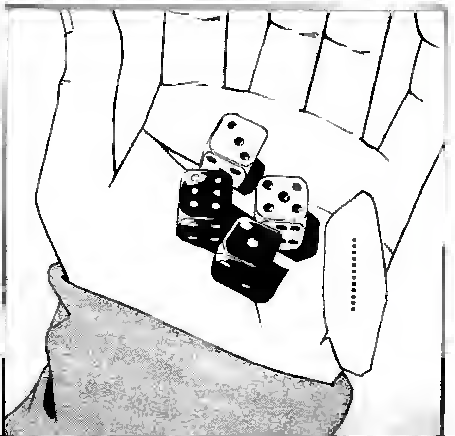

I HAVE ONLY 3 PIECES LEFT IF I GET DOUBLES 6 AGAIN
I'LL WIN IN ONE ROUND!


!?
!!

I WANT TO CHECK THE DICE.


!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'LL ONLY BE WASTING YOUR TIME
HM, WHY?


.....

NO, WAIT.
BANJO -KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?
THERE'S NOTHING SUSPI -CIOUS...!
NO...
THE LEFT HAND?
ドン ドン
WHY IS IT...? I FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING...
HIS GUY
WASN'T HE USING HIS RIGHT HAND TO CAST THE DICE?
AND THEN HE SWITCHED TO HIS LEFT HAND, AND THERE WERE CONSECUTIVE DOUBLES 6... WHY?

THE GORDIAN KNOT HAS BEEN UNRAVELLED!
AH ... I SEE.
SHA SHA
HM ... STUBBORN KID. BUT...
IT'S ALR -IGHT.
SORRY, LET'S CONTINUE.

PLEASE DON'T BE DOUBLES 6!
LET'S END IT NOW!
NOT DOU -BLES?
6 AND 1?

OW... HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? WHY CAN'T I CAST IT?
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE PALE.
DID YOUR LUCK LEAVE YOU?
OR ...
DID YOU FAIL TO CHEAT?

IS IT POSSIBLE ...
LEANS BACK
THIS BRAT ...!
WHAT'S GOING ON???
EH,
EH?!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LET ME EXPOSE YOUR TRICK!
PUFFED UP
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN I AM, I DO HAVE A LIMIT TO MY PATIENCE.
PLEASE DON'T LOOK FOR TROUBLE ...

I WILL UNCOVER YOUR TRICKS!
BEFORE THIS GAME ENDS
TO GET ME TO MAKE MISTAKES!
HE'S JUST BLUFFING.
NO... DON'T PANIC.
WHAT?
NO ONE CAN EXPOSE IT!
DOUBTING ME WITHOUT ANY BASIS?
ALRIGHT.
MY TRICK IS FLAW -LESS!

IF YOU CAN PROVE THAT I AM CHEATING, I WILL GIVE MY WHOLE COLLECTION TO YOU!
BUT IF YOU CAN'T ...
HABU-SAN, ALL OF YOUR CARDS BELONGS TO ME!

WAI
-WAIT!
HABU!
!!
EH?
I WAS INSULTED BY HIM!
ISN'T THIS YOUNG MAN YOUR REPRE -SENTATIVE?!
HOW- HOW DID IT COME TO THIS
HABU -SAN
YOU HAVE NO SAY!
THIS IS AKIN TO BEING INSULTED BY YOU!

.....
BANJO -KUN! HOW DARE YOU-
AH, SHUT UP!
PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME!
HABU-SAN, IF YOU WANT TO WIN,
WHAT ...
FINE!!
GOOD CHOICE!
NOW ...

THIS
IS
YOUR
VICTORY!

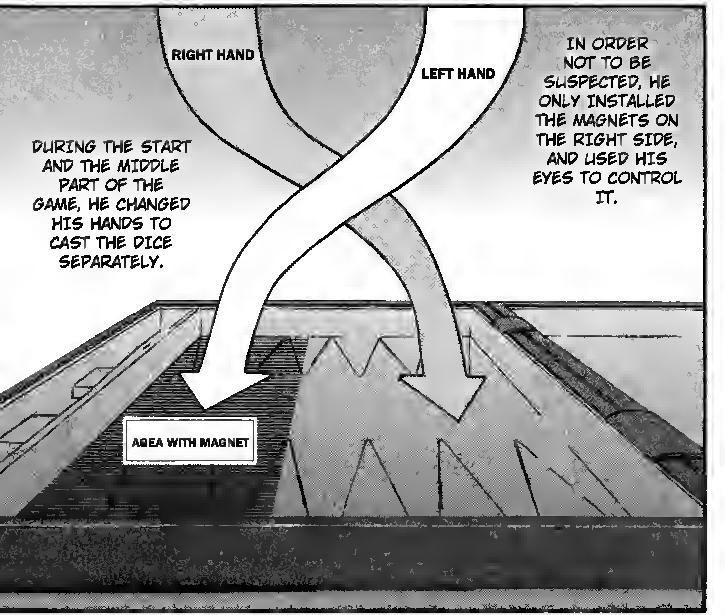
WHAT'S THAT?
.....!
WHAT?!

PACHINKO BALL?!
PACHIN -KO BALL? WHY?
ROLLS

DAMN!
NO GOOD!
STOP, STOP, STOP
STOP!
YAAAAAA ——————!!!

THE PACHINKO BALL STOPPED?!
A MAG -NET?!
AH, THIS IS ...
.....
POKE!

THERE-FORE IT WILL ALWAYS SHOW 6!
AND THE FACE OF THE DIE WITH A 1 HAS A PIECE OF METAL FIXED INSIDE.
YEP. THIS BOARD HAS A MAGNET FIXED TO IT.
YES ...
IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT THE DICE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THE TRICK!
WHICH MEANS EVEN IF YOU CHECK THE DICE YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING STRANGE WITH IT.
IN ORDER TO CHEAT WITH THIS METHOD, SAKAMOTO INSTALLED MAGNETS ON HIS SIDE OF THE BOARD ONLY.
SAKAMOTO
YOU ALWAYS USE THE RIGHT SIDE OF YOUR BOARD IN BACKGAMMON TO CAST THE DICE ON.
BANJO


RIGHT HAND
LEFT HAND
IN ORDER NOT TO BE SUSPECTED, HE ONLY INSTALLED THE MAGNETS ON THE RIGHT SIDE, AND USED HIS EYES TO CONTROL IT.
DURING THE START AND THE MIDDLE PART OF THE GAME, HE CHANGED HIS HANDS TO CAST THE DICE SEPARATELY.
AREA WITH MAGNET

THIS IS THE TRUTH OF YOUR "LUCK"!

PHEW... I WAS SO WORRIED FOR A MINUTE THERE.
TO BE HONEST, THIS IS A REALLY GOOD TRICK.
IF I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE THEN AND CASTED DOUBLES 6...
DAMN ...
WRONG.
AND I WILL BE THE VICTOR INSTEAD!
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BE EXPOSED BY YOU!

YOU LOST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WIN.

PLEASE CONTROL YOUR GAMBLING ABITS NEXT TIME.
YEAH I WILL.
I GOT ALL MY COLLECTION BACK.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU GUYS.
THIS IS THE KEY TO THE VICTORY
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T WIN BECAUSE OF A COINCI -DENCE?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BACK THEN?
BY THE WAY, BANJO ...
WAIT... WHY DO I HAVE TO GUESS?! HMM...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CAST A 6? WHY?

GORIDIOSU NO MUSUBIME

Translator: Sephiria Chronos
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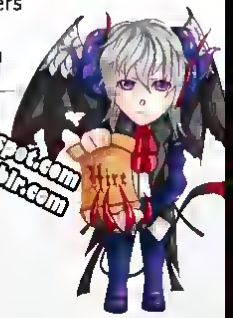

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